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COLLECTOR

Collectors Club

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NEWS



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NEWS

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UFC & PMI LAUNCH OCTAGON FIGHTERS LINE ON AMAZON

A **brand** new line of UFC Octagon Fighters collectables has officially launched on Amazon, giving fight-fans a fresh way to engage with their favourite athletes.

The series, created through a partnership between UFC and global toy manufacturer PMI, marks the latest step in expanding the UFC's presence within the rapidly growing kidult and collector markets. As demand for stylised, high-quality action figures continues to rise, UFC is positioning itself increasingly strongly within the collectables space.

The new figures offer fans stylised representations of some of the sport's most recognisable competitors, capturing the personality, energy, and intensity that define the UFC brand. The launch follows the successful release of the mystery UFC Punching Bag Capsules in May 2025, a product that

served as a teaser for the full line and generated early excitement among collectors. The capsules quickly gained traction, building anticipation for a more expansive collection.

The full collection on Amazon includes UFC 4.5-inch Articulated Action Figure One-Pack, UFC 4.5-Inch Articulated Action Figures Legendary Fights Two-Pack and 2.5-inch Collectables Fighters

The collaboration between UFC and PMI reflects a broader trend within the entertainment and sports industries, where franchises are increasingly investing in collectables aimed at adult fans as much as younger audiences. With the UFC's global fanbase and PMI's track record of producing popular licensed merchandise, the Octagon Fighters line is expected to see strong demand. ■



\$10K TRADING CARD HEIST HITS TOM BRADY-BACKED STORE

NFL legend Tom Brady recently invested in CardVault, a New York City shop devoted entirely to the booming world of trading cards—from rare Pokémon holos to coveted baseball rookies. Since opening, the store has become a hotspot for collectors, investors, and hobbyists, reflecting the skyrocketing value of trading cards in recent years.

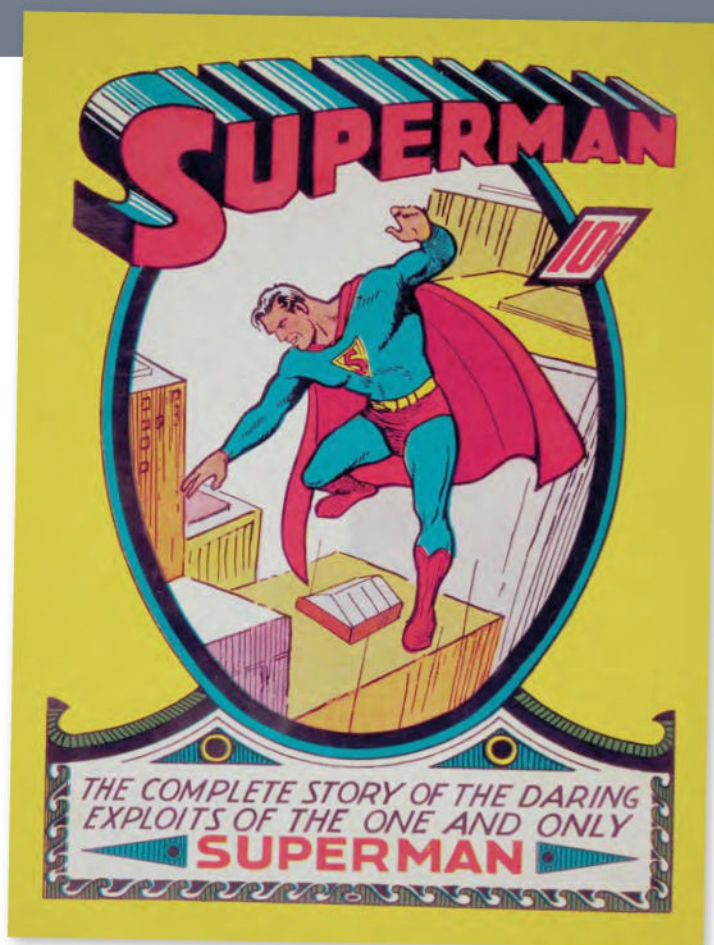
But on October 20, 2025, CardVault made headlines for a very different reason. Surveillance cameras captured a thief walking out with over \$10,000 worth of Pokémon and baseball cards, slipping away before employees realised anything was wrong.

According to staff, the suspect attempted to pay using a credit card, but when the transaction was declined, he pretended to complete the purchase using tap-to-pay. In a moment of misdirection, he convinced employees the sale had gone through and calmly exited the store with the high-value merchandise. By the time the deception was uncovered, the thief was long gone.

The incident highlights a growing challenge in the trading-card world: as values rise, so does criminal interest. Once seen mainly as nostalgic collectables, trading cards have become a modern form of alternative investment, with some individual cards selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars. This shift has brought renewed excitement to the hobby—but also new risks.

For collectors, dealers, and shops like CardVault, the theft serves as a reminder to stay vigilant. High-value cards are not only cherished pieces of pop culture history—they're increasingly lucrative targets.

Whether you're hunting for a rare Charizard or chasing the latest rookie phenom, one message is clear: keep your Pikachu close to your chest. ■



SUPERMAN NO. 1 BREAKS ALL-TIME COMIC RECORD

LAST year when three brothers were clearing up the San Francisco home of their deceased mother, they discovered a copy of the first Superman issue. This was found alongside a handful of other rare comics that their mother had collected on the cusp of World War II.

When taken to a Texas auction house in November of 2025, the Superman comic was netted at \$9.12 million, breaking the record for the most expensive comic book ever sold.

The woman had told her children she had a valuable comic book collection hidden away, but they had never seen it until they put her house up for sale and decided to go through her

belongings looking for special memories.

The “Superman No.1” comic was released in 1939 by Detective Comics Inc and there are only a small number of copies known to be in existence and this one specifically is in excellent condition. The Man of Steel was the first Superhero to enter pop culture, and this helped increase the copy’s value with collectors.

A small advertisement in the comic book helped experts identify it as originating from the first edition of 500,000 Superman No.1 copies ever printed. The copy was rated a 9.0 out of 10 by comics grading company CGC, meaning it had only the slightest signs of wear and aging. ■

PRINGLES ENTERS COLLECTABLES CRAZE WITH MYSTERY BOX

WITH the surge in popularity of modern collectables, even major global brands are embracing the mystery-box trend. One of the latest to join the movement is Pringles, which has launched the “Once You Pop” Mystery Box—a playful combination of blind-flavour crisps and limited-edition collectable toys. The release blends nostalgia with current collecting culture, appealing to snack lovers and collectors alike.

Each box includes a mystery-flavour can of Pringles, with the exact taste concealed beneath coded packaging. Consumers are encouraged to guess the flavour, share reactions online, and compare theories with other snack enthusiasts. Alongside the crisps, every box contains one of six “Pringamabobs”, small mascot-like bag charms shaped like stacks of Pringles crisps. These quirky items introduce a tactile, toy-based element

reminiscent of childhood collectables.

The launch has sparked conversation among adults who grew up in the 80s and 90s, many noting how the promotion echoes the era of toys in cereal boxes and surprise-pack snacks. By tapping into nostalgia while embracing today’s collectables boom, Pringles bridges the gap between generations of consumers.

Pringles’ playful packaging, character lineup, and blind-flavour concept encourage social-media engagement, unboxing videos, and flavour-guessing challenges. Limited availability and rotating tastes ensure that each release feels fresh and keeps collectors returning for more. By merging food, fun, and collectable culture into a single experience, Pringles has reimagined snacking as an interactive, community-driven activity—one that combines the thrill of discovery with the joy of collecting.



NEWS

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In November 2025, the long-anticipated Collectors Showcase made its debut at London's iconic Olympia, instantly becoming a highlight of the year for hobbyists and enthusiasts. Marketed as a collectables extravaganza, the event delivered on its promise: if you can collect it, chances are it had a home under Olympia's vast roof.

The showcase brought together a vibrant mix of trading cards, sneakers, comic books, figurines, limited-edition memorabilia, and more. Whether visitors were hunting for a rare Charizard, a vintage pair of Jordans, or a golden-age comic book, the atmosphere buzzed with the excitement of both discovery and nostalgia.

Collectors were given the chance not only to buy, sell, and trade, but also to have their most prized items authenticated and graded by industry-leading



SHOWCASE IS AN OLYMPIA SUCCESS

experts. Several well-known grading companies set up full booths, with queues forming early as attendees sought professional validation for their treasures.

The event also drew major brands and sponsors eager to tap into the booming collectables

market. Even eBay hosted its own dedicated area—an impressive presence that signaled just how seriously the online marketplace views the growing collector community. For a first-year show, the level of corporate participation was notably strong.

The response from the

public was equally enthusiastic. With over 6,000 attendees, the Collectors Showcase exceeded expectations, filling the venue with passionate fans, seasoned traders, newcomers to the hobby, and families looking to experience the culture firsthand. Vendors reported brisk sales throughout the weekend, and many remarked on the diverse crowd and high energy.

Following the success of the inaugural event, anticipation is already building for November 2026. Vendor tables for next year's showcase appear to be selling out months in advance, a clear sign of the excitement generated by the debut. Organisers have hinted at a larger floor plan, more guest appearances, and expanded experiences—suggesting that the second year will be even bigger and more immersive than the first. ■

NEXT MONTH

MARCH
2026 Issue 341



The Renovation Game

In the second part of this series, Ian McDermott looks at choosing a project to restore.

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EARLY DINKY AND CLASSIC CORGI ATTRACT STRONG BIDDERS TO GTH

GTH held a collector's sale on 29 October at The Somerset Auction Rooms, with several diecast highlights attracting strong interest from bidders. One of the standout pieces was a pre-war Dinky No.23 racing car. Finished in cream with a green top and nose flash and carrying racing number 6, it came in fair condition and unboxed. Even so, early Dinky models continue to maintain their following, and this example achieved a hammer price of £320.

Corgi fans were also treated to a desirable export issue: the No.509 Porsche Targa 911S police car in Rijkspolitie livery. With its crisp white finish and bright fluorescent orange nose stripe, doors and engine cover, the model was offered in excellent condition with a good box and sold for £180.

Another strong result came from Corgi Gift Set 27 featuring the Bedford machinery carrier and Priestman 'Cub' shovel. The tractor unit, trailer and shovel all



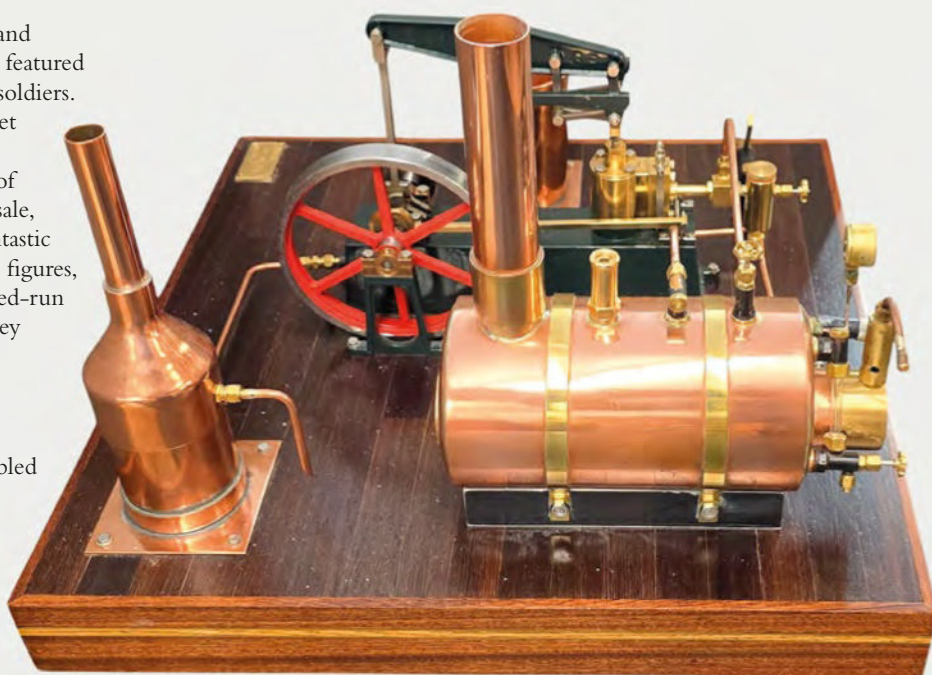
presented in excellent condition, housed in a later window box. The set reached a hammer price

of £170, reflecting continued interest in boxed gift sets from this era. ■

STAR WARS AND STEAM AT WARWICK & WARWICK

WARWICK & Warwick's Toys, Postcards and Cigarette Cards Auction on 19 November featured a strong range of King & Country model soldiers. One standout lot included Pike and Musket figures alongside the Three Musketeers, which together achieved a hammer price of £525. Looking ahead to their 21 January sale, Warwick & Warwick will be offering a fantastic Star Wars collection that covers collectable figures, vehicles, sets and statuettes, as well as limited-run items such as the Hasbro HasLab Mos Eisley Cantina set with Deluxe edition add-ons, rarely seen at auction.

The sale will also feature a custom-built Chiltern model steam engine. Fully assembled on a wooden base, it includes a single-cylinder beam engine with shaft support, a 3.5-inch copper gas boiler with brass fittings, water tank and feed pump, and a chimney condenser/oil separator. The engine is in excellent condition and will be offered at £270. ■



BIG TOY RESULTS AT C & T

C & T Auctioneers and Valuers in Ashford, Kent held their 'Fine Dolls, Teddy Bears, Juvenalia and Related Pieces' auction on 19 November.

The headline lot was an original *Andy Pandy* string puppet from the BBC children's show that first aired in 1950. Original screen-used puppets hardly ever appear on the market, so it was no surprise to see this one spark a lot of excitement. After some determined bidding, it sold for £15,500.

Two Bolland's penny-in-

the-slot arcade machines from the 1950s brought a different kind of nostalgia. The floor-standing 'Haunted House' model, complete with its wonderfully atmospheric interior, reached £6,200. Its companion piece, a one-of-a-kind 'Ding Dong Dell' model with its distinctive clown head, made £2,800. Both were standout pieces for collectors of British arcade history.

In the automata and doll sections, a Gustave Vichy musical equilibriste from the 1880s sold for £2,600. Meanwhile, a boxed 1962 Sasha Morgenthaler

Studio portrait doll, always a firm favourite with collectors of modern doll design, achieved £3,000.

One of the earliest items in the sale also caught a lot of attention: a group of Evans & Cartwright painted tinplate dolls' house furniture from around 1840. Delicate early pieces like these don't turn up often, and this set climbed to £4,400.

C & T's next event is their Retro Toys live auction on Sunday 1 February, with more specialist sales planned for later in the year. ■





Great Scott! Marty McFly is always associated – and rightly so – with the DMC-12 DeLorean in the ‘*Back to the Future*’ film trilogy, a car which has been replicated over the years in various scales as well as in kit and modular brick form.

Reaching the mid-80s, the hype of the muscle car was waning considerably, with buyers clamouring for the new trend of SUVs and trucks, which were becoming the Kings of Cool. And so, it was right that one vehicle gained a stealth cult status, and with quiet success, and could be seen as somewhat greater than Doc Brown’s Time Machine: McFly’s Toyota Hilux SR5, which is seen towards the end of the first and third films.

The SR5 was the higher spec version of the Hilux with cloth upholstered bucket seats, tilt steering wheel, full instrument binnacle, as well as exterior enhancements such as graphics, roll-bars, brush guard and a rear step bumper on the 4x4 variants.

The 2.4 EFI inline four engine was mated to a 5-speed manual gearbox and the SR5 was one of the last Toyota pickups made to use a solid front axle before the transition to independent front suspension.

Ottomobile, purveyors of replicating the French classic catalogue, have chosen this iconic pick-up to reproduce in 1:18 scale and deliver a model with absolute precision. It was near impossible to fault the execution. The exterior paintwork feels fresh and glossy, and the bodywork is accurately recreated, doing very well at capturing the curvature and form of the

New model of the month

Keith D’Souza picks a standout new release. This month, he reviews the 1985 Toyota Hilux SR5.

Ottomobile 1985 Toyota Hilux SR5 (Glossy black 202)

SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** €69.90

PRODUCT REF: OT481

otto-models.com

metalwork, along with the pronounced door mirrors. And this level of quality just keeps going – the Goodyear Wrangler Radials on chrome U.S. Wheel rims capture perfectly the spirit of 1985 and optional extras available at the time.

The intimacy of macro detailing, such as the correct Californian registration plate and ‘Statler Toyota’ dealer sticker on rear window as well, is becoming a trademark for Ottomobile models in 1:18 and really add kudos along with the discreet rear quarter vehicle monikers. The iconic long-range KC Daylighters (a cheeky nod to ‘The Fall Guy’s GMC K-2500) look and feel as if they have their protective covers on for real – hat tip to get this level of small-scale realism right. Although

Ottomobile’s 1:18 range are sealed castings, the interior can be seen through the cab windows and is correctly modelled and detailed with the chequered seats – though flat in creation, they still make you want to climb in, get comfortable and drive.

The dash observes the tacho and rev counter as it should be, the gear lever stands by at the ready, and the steering wheel just feels ready to be gripped and used, with the ‘Toyota’ badging providing assured authenticity.

This model produces over 1.21 Gigawatts of happiness and delight with Ottomobile absolutely nailing the execution. For the price point, it is ridiculously good value – dare one say embarrassing some of the higher end brands in the process. It would not look out of place accompanying a DeLorean Time Machine of the same scale or as a standalone piece within your diecast collection. To paraphrase Doc Brown: “The way I see it, if you’re gonna build a scale model pickup, why not do it with some style?” ■

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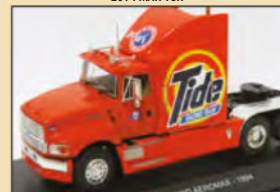
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GOLDVARG COLLECTION
1957 Oldsmobile Starfire
(Coronado yellow & alcan white)

SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £90
PRODUCT NO: GC-092 A

goldvargcollection.com

Inspired by the one-year-only 1957 Starfire 98, this bright Coronado Yellow release showcases Oldsmobile's halo-car flair with crisp two-tone styling, rich chrome detailing.



GOLDVARG COLLECTION
1968 Mercury Brougham
(Gulfstream aqua)

SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £90
PRODUCT NO: GC-085 B

goldvargcollection.com

Reflecting Mercury's peak luxury era, the '68 Brougham blended premium trim, smooth V8 comfort and imposing full-size presence — all faithfully recreated here in shimmering Gulfstream Aqua.



GOLDVARG COLLECTION
1959 Ford Country Squire
(Green metallic)

SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £80
PRODUCT NO: GC-091 A

goldvargcollection.com

Ford's flagship wagon for 1959, the Country Squire combined new extended styling with trademark woodgrain panels — qualities Goldvarg captures beautifully in this richly detailed miniature.



GOLDVARG COLLECTION
1959 Ford Station Wagon
Fruitland, MD Fire Chief

SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £80
PRODUCT NO: GC-091 C

goldvargcollection.com

This Fire Chief variant reimagines Ford's full-size '59 wagon in authentic emergency-service livery, complete with period badging, bold red paint and a classic roof-mounted beacon.



MATRIX
Citroën DS21 Grand Palais Coupe
(Green metallic)

SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £127.99
PRODUCT NO: MX50304103

diecastlegends.com

A classic pillarless coupe with a gorgeous green metallic finish and silver detailing. The one-of-a-kind Citroën DS21 is known for its bespoke, forward-thinking design.



MATRIX
Mercedes 250C 1968-1973 (Blue)

SCALE: 1:43
PRICE: £127.99
PRODUCT NO: MX11302242

diecastlegends.com

With a 2,778 cc 6-cylinder engine and an output of 130 bhp, this 250C excelled as a stylish and exclusive motor vehicle that propelled Mercedes forward.

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Happy collecting!



SOLIDO
Alpine A110 Radicale 70 (Blue)

SCALE: 1:43
PRICE: £26.99
PRODUCT NO: S4317205

solido.com

Released for Alpine's 70th anniversary, this range-topping 300hp model combines precision performance with exhilarating power and agility. A reimagining of modern sportscars.



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GOLDVARG: 1966 MERCURY BROUGHAM, METALLIC BLUE. £89.98

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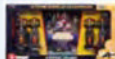
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SCALE: 1:76 PRICE: £9.95
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SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £72.99
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diecastlegends.com

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miniatures-minichamps.com

Driven by Jean Laroche and Remy Radix to 19th place at the 1957 Le Mans 24 Hours, this streamlined classic carries its bold #46 badge with pride.

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miniatures-minichamps.com

A detailed replica of Lewis Hamilton's #44 Mercedes F1 W15 from his 2024 British Grand Prix victory, complete with his Union Jack celebration flag.

NEW DUBLIN CITY TOUR BUS FROM NORTHCORD

Northcord Model Company continues its work on the Alexander ALX400-bodied casting with its latest release, a detailed replica of Dublin Bus's open-top Volvo B7TL in full DoDublin Hop-on Hop-off Tour livery. The model represents fleet number AV93, complete with the bright green design, line-drawn city graphics and bold Hop on, Hop off branding that make the real vehicle so recognisable. Every element of the livery has been recreated, from the anniversary panels to the multilingual tour guide markings. The one-piece casting gives the model clean lines and sharp detailing, while the redesigned blister keeps it secure on the plinth. Limited to 1,008 pieces worldwide. ■

Northcord Model Company

Vehicle Alexander ALX400-bodied

Volvo B7TL Open Top (green)

Scale 1:76 **Price** £59.99

Product no iebus 0008

www.northcordmodelcompany.com



NEW LEYLAND PD3 'QUEEN MARY' FROM CORGI

Corgi revisits a Southdown favourite with this model of the Leyland PD3 'Queen Mary'. The real vehicle, BUF 277C, entered service in 1965 and spent much of its working life on busy Brighton routes before moving on to OK Motor Services and later becoming a driver training bus. Now preserved in its classic green and cream colours, it remains a popular sight at rallies. This model captures the look and feel of the Queen Mary with crisp detailing and an authentic finish. ■

Corgi

Vehicle Leyland PD3 'Queen Mary'
Southdown (green and cream)

Scale 1:76 **Price** £46.99 **Product no** OM41914

www.corgi.co.uk



NEW FELTHAM TRAM FROM LONDON TRANSPORT

This 1:76 scale model depicts Feltham tram number 2079 on its final run through Croydon on 7 April 1951, marking the end of tram operation on the route. First introduced in 1929, the Feltham class became a familiar part of London's streets before being gradually replaced by trolleybuses. After its farewell journey, 2079 moved to Leeds Corporation Tramways and remained in service until 1959. With only three Feltham trams surviving today, this limited edition model is a fitting nod to an important piece of transport history. ■

Corgi

Vehicle Feltham tram
London Transport (red and cream)

Scale 1:76 **Price** £46.99 **Product no** OM40507

www.corgi.co.uk



CONRAD
Liebherr A909 Compact
wheeled excavator
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €88.00
PRODUCT NO: 2234/0

The long awaited Liebherr A909 Compact wheeled excavator is now available, packing more details than usual for a Conrad model including fully functional digging equipment.

www.liebherr.com/liebherrshop



CONRAD
Liebherr RE25 M road-rail excavator
SCALE: 1:50
PRICE: €186.00
PRODUCT NO: 2237/0 Road rail

Excavators are specialist machines that run on both road and rail lines, and the new Liebherr RE25 is another stunner from Conrad, featuring rail wheels that can be deployed.

www.liebherr.com/liebherrshop



CONRAD
Liebherr LTM1055-3.3 mobile crane
SCALE: 1:50
PRICE: €169.75
PRODUCT NO: 2127/0

The new styling from Liebherr has been authentically captured on this 3-axle mobile crane. The counterweights are detachable, the boom is fully adjustable with smoothly extending boom sections.

www.liebherr.com/liebherrshop



REPLICARS
Hitachi ZX350-7G tracked excavator
SCALE: 1:50
PRICE: €TBA
PRODUCT NO: NA

Hitachi continue to add new models to their range, including the ZX210-7G, a highly detailed release featuring an opening cabin door, replicated interior, raised hydraulic lines.

www.hcmewebshop.com



TMC SCALEMODELS
Hitachi EX1200-7 tracked excavator
SCALE: 1:50
PRICE: €TBA
PRODUCT NO: NA

It has been a long time coming, but the first mining machine from Hitachi in 1:50th scale is now available. Packing an amazing level of detail, the smallest of details are fully replicated.

www.hcmewebshop.com



CONRAD
MAN TGS TN 33.540 Doll short
timber transporter with trailer
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €190.00
PRODUCT NO: 81233/02

The latest announcement from MAN is the TGS TN 33.540 truck which has been paired with a two-axle drawbar trailer, both fitted with DOLL timber handling solutions.

www.man-shop.eu



BYMO
Bucyrus RH340B hydraulic
mining shovel
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €479.00
PRODUCT NO: 25008/2

They have arrived, the new mining models from Bymo include the RH340B shovel finished in the Bucyrus livery. The model is based on old tooling, but the new decoration really stands out.

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk



BYMO
Bucyrus RH340B hydraulic
mining backhoe
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €479.00
PRODUCT NO: 25010/2

Not content with one Bucyrus model, Bymo has also produced an exacting version of the RH340B in a backhoe configuration. Details include the fully loaded upper engine bay.

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Claas Axion 960TT MY24 Tractor

PRICE: £100.00 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 00 0267 471 0

Over the years Universal Hobbies has released models of many of the tractors Claas has made. However, this is the first Axion 900 series tractor it has issued and it's a beautifully engineered, largely diecast, it weighs 865 gms, newly tooled model with good levels of detailing.

The tractor has steerable front wheels and freely rotating flexible 735 mm wide tracks. It has a working three-point front linkage with two rams supporting the lower links, adjustable top link, yellow pto cover, linkage control buttons and detachable modular weight. The hinged bonnet has transparent panels and lights and when raised reveals the radiators and engine detail. Driving mirrors, SAT 900 dome, LED

flashing beacons, an aerial and folding red and white marker boards are provided on the cab. The doors and rear window open making it easy to fit a driver to the well laid out interior. It has foot pedals, steering column and on the driver's seat armrest the Cebis touch screen detailed.

Behind the cab and at the tractor's rear there's a working three-point rear linkage. Alongside support rams there's a slide, it does not work well, under the rear axle to lock the arms in the raised position. Universal Hobbies has detailed a European style hitch and for attaching equipment provided a simple hook. The external hydraulic blocks and autolube unit are detailed as are the buttons and lights on the mudguards.

Released over the summer and limited to a 1500 model run, it's available from Claas and its dealer network only.

www.claas.com



DIECAST MASTERS

Caterpillar Twenty Tractor 100th Anniversary Edition

PRICE: £45.99 **SCALE:** 1:50

PRODUCT NO: 85654

Well-built diecast tractor with good levels of detailing on the driver's platform. It's supplied on a plinth in a special presentation box.

www.diecastmasters.com



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Deutz-Fahr 8280 TVV Warrior Tractor

PRICE: £79.16 **SCALE:** 1:32

PRODUCT NO: UH6634 (SDF: MO9D145)

Special gloss black edition of its 8280 TVV tractor with non-detachable dual rear wheels. Individually numbered and limited to a 1000 model run.

www.utz-fahr.com



REPLICAGRI

Massey Ferguson 168 Tractor

PRICE: £64.95 **SCALE:** 1:32

PRODUCT NO: REP515

Largely metal, detailed tractor with detachable front weight, steerable wheels and working rear linkage. It's supplied with linkage drawbar and top link.

www.replicagri.com



REPLICAGRI

Nodet GC 3M Seed Drill

PRICE: around £36.00 **SCALE:** 1:32

PRODUCT NO: REP292

Smart mounted drill provided with folding markers and opening seed box lid. Individual coulters and covering harrow are detailed.

www.replicagri.com

LEFT Doors and luggage compartments are accessible, and even the pop-up lights function



Countach!

An expression of astonishment in the Piedmontese dialect of Northern Italy, and the name of one of the world's most famous supercars. **Alex Winson** examines Kyosho's detailed 1:18 LP400.

If asked to think of a Lamborghini Countach, the LP400 is probably not the model that springs to mind. The later LP400 S, LP500, and 5000 QV models are synonymous with the economic excess of the 1980s, and due to the QV's status as perhaps the poster boy supercar of the era, the LP400 rather fades into the background. Even the most passionate car fanatic could be forgiven for envisaging a wide arched, big-winged, 5000 QV model, sat on wide Campagnolo "telephone dial" wheels, finished in "Rosso Siviglia" red or (maybe, thanks to *The Wolf of Wall Street*) "Bianco Polo" white.

And that's exactly what I pictured until I first set eyes on an LP400. The first of the Countach lineage, to me, the LP400 is the purest, most beautiful version of Marcello Gandini's iconic, wedge-shaped supercar.

Beginning work in 1970, chief engineer Paolo Stanzani and Ferruccio Lamborghini wanted a car to surpass the Miura. Codenamed LP112, the Countach was designed with the highest mechanical performance in mind, and to be just as beautiful as its jaw-dropping predecessor. The prototype (now named LP500) was ready for the 1971 Geneva Motor Show.

The bold styling was a continuation of

Gandini's work on the 1968 Alfa Romeo Carabo and the incredible Lancia Stratos Zero of 1970: wedge-shaped, mid-engined designs with heavy use of the trapezoidal shapes with which he had begun experimenting in the late 1960s. The styling remained relatively unchanged when the production LP400 Countach (named after a Piedmontese exclamation of surprise) went on sale in 1974.

The LP500 prototype was initially powered by a 5.0-litre V12, but the LP400 utilised a 3.9-litre unit, giving 370bhp at 8,000rpm, with 266 lb-ft of torque kicking in at 5,500rpm and a top speed a whisker short of 180mph – a hypercar by the standards of the day.

Lamborghini replaced the LP400 in 1978 with the new, redesigned LP400 S, complete with a large spoiler, wider arches and fatter tyres with an aim to improve high-speed stability and handling. But while the fundamental shape remained the same, the clean lines of the LP400 were now buried under the additional aero. Subsequent models got faster, but were nowhere near as pretty.

There are many diecast replicas of later Countach models to choose from, but not so many of the LP400. Indeed, few brands could do such a car justice in miniature, but

Japanese legend Kyosho is probably one of the best equipped to do so. They've tackled the LP400 in 1:18 before, but in 2025 re-released the model in Lamborghini "Giallo Fly" yellow.

If you can snap your eyes away from the exterior, there's a staggering level of detail hidden away under every panel.

Behind the scissor doors, there's a faithfully replicated interior complete with fabric seatbelts and minuscule metal buckles. Not a gauge or switch has been missed, and one can even pick out the gear numbering on the gearstick. A flocked, faux-carpet finish lines the floor and extends to the luggage compartment, crammed in behind a V12 complete with ignition leads, hoses and carburettors.

Chassis detail is strong too, with working suspension and functional steering, along with a small switch to operate the pop-up lights. Those distinctive, Pirelli-shod Campagnolo wheels roll wonderfully for a 1:18 scale model – not that this is anything other than a display-cabinet queen.

It's a true masterpiece of modelling, but it will set you back masterpiece pricing too, with a retail price north of £225. It's not an easy cost to swallow, but then again, how do you put a price on art? ■

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Tragedy and despair

In 1985, Diabolique Motorsport was a well-established rally team; however, an era in rallying was ending. **Francisco Mota** looks at how the Team made the change to Group B rules, with a terrible tragedy in between.

The Ford Escort MKII, in almost standard form Group 1 or in full spec Group 4, served many privateers with great success. For a decade, this was the car of choice for many professional and amateur teams around the UK and continental Europe. A network of independent specialists provided all the help needed to prepare, fine-tune, maintain and repair all the versions used in rallying. Diabolique Motorsport invested heavily in the MKII, entering a maximum of three cars in some events, with a pair of Group 4s and a Group 1 example. When Group B was announced as the replacement to the Group 4, in the early 1980s, Ford Motorsport was

not ready to have a car in the stages right away. The first solution was to homologate the MKII Group 4 in Group B, which the FIA, the ruling body allowed. That was because there was the need to have cars running in the top class, while constructors build their new Gr. B cars. Ford was the last team to have their new “weapon” ready. They missed the 1986 Monte Carlo rally in January and only started to compete from the Swedish leg of the championship. The Ford RS200 was the only Group B with a unique styling; it wasn’t a version of a street car like all the others, as wild as they all looked. Ford preferred to promote the brand instead of a specific model in their line-up.

DIABOLIQUE WAS THE FIRST

Doctor Oliveira, the Diabolique Motorsport owner, knew all about the RS200 project, and Ford also told him that it didn’t make sense to continue using the MKII in rallying, after the road car was replaced by the Escort MKIII.

Ford had a program for a MKIII rally car, it had rear wheel drive only, contrary to the road car, which was front wheel drive. The team tested the car, it was faster than any Escort MKII, but had no chance against all the other four wheel drive machines and the Ford Escort RS1700T was cancelled before entering any rally. This was the reason why Ford was late in developing the RS200, they only kept the engine from the still-born project.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Some of the cars used by Diabolique in their last years: 1985 Ford Escort MKIII 1.6i RS, 1986 Ford RS200 and 1988 Ford Sierra RS Cosworth

Diabolique decided to use a Group A Ford Escort RS1600i in some rallies during the 1985 season. Obviously, the car had no chance to win outright, only its class.

For the final event of the season, the Algarve rally, the team decided to give the Escort MKII a proper goodbye and entered the Gr.4 machine one last time.

At the end of 1985 and the beginning of 1986, Diabolique Motorsport participated in the official RS200 development tests Ford did in various countries. Joaquim Santos drove the car with Doctor Oliveira as the co-driver, and they gave their feedback to the team. The new four-wheel-drive car had nothing to do with the ageing Escort MKII; it was much faster, with much more grip and much more efficient handling. It demanded a new driving style, and Santos had to adapt.

FROM GR. B TO GR. A

Diabolique Motorsport was the first privateer team to receive a RS200 in 1986, ready to enter rally Portugal in March, next to the pair of works cars. However, tragedy occurred. In the very first special stage, Santos lost control of the RS200 and hit spectators standing by the side of the road. A horrible scenario, with injured people and almost a dozen deaths (the real number was never announced) led all the works drivers to start a strike. None would continue the rally, for lack of spectators' safety. Later in the year, a second accident in rally Corsica, which took the life of Lancia driver Toivonen and co-driver Cresto, led the FIA to cancel the Group B rules from the following season.

Back to the Portuguese national championship, Diabolique kept using the RS200 until the end of the season, without much success. For 1987, the team changed to a Group A car, as every

top team had to do. Doctor Oliveira stuck with Ford and the Sierra RS Cosworth, a car designed more for racing than rallying. It only had rear-wheel drive, however, the engine had plenty bhp. In a way, it suited Santos and his mastering of the Escort MKII. Very fast in tarmac rallies, it struggles a bit more in gravel stages, against four-wheel drive opponents. For three seasons, Diabolique Motorsport continued to be the preferred car for the fans, especially on gravel stages where Santos gave his best with monumental slides in almost every corner. Unfortunately, that was not enough to win another championship. For 1990, Doctor Oliveira decided to invest in a new car, another Ford, this time the Group A four-wheel drive Ford Sierra RS Cosworth 4WD. In theory, this car had all that was needed to win, however, in 1990, it wasn't completely developed by the works team. At the end of that season, Doctor Oliveira

'For a decade, this was the car of choice for many professional and amateur teams around the UK and continental Europe. A network of independent specialists provided all the help needed to prepare and maintain all the versions used in rallying.'

RIGHT 1A or 1B – While waiting for the RS200 Gr.B, the team entered a Group A MKIII Escort



decides to pull the plug on Diabolique Motorsport. The 4WD was slow, and Ford had nothing on the pipeline for the immediate future. Doctor Oliveira always said he would stop when he was 50, and the time had come. After 10 years of rallying, Diabolique Motorsport won 39 rallies in the Portuguese Rally Championship and three drivers' titles. To this day, Santos/Oliveira are still among the top winners in this series.

1:43 SCALE MODELS

There are a good number of diecast models featuring Diabolique Motorsport colours. We saw that in Part 1 of this story, and it is similar in Part 2. However, to restart from the 1985 season onwards, we had to order a Code 3 model from ModelHeart. It is based on an Escort MKIII RS 1.6i from Altaya that was stripped of all livery, accessories and paint, before being repainted and a new decal sheet applied. The result is very good, with the correct wheel rims, roof antenna and mud flaps. There's even a roll-cage inside the cabin, racing seats and seat belts. The livery is much simpler than the previous Escorts MKII, but it still looks good.

From 1986, Diabolique changed from the almost standard Group A Escort to one of the Group B "monsters", the Ford RS200. A mid-engine coupé two-seater that looked like a proper original design, instead of a streetcar on steroids, like all its rivals. Altaya released an Ixo made replica that follows the shape, proportions and details very well. The roof-mounted



ABOVE The Group B Ford RS200 was the most competitive car Diabolique ever had. Unfortunately, it was linked to a tragedy that changed the WRC

radiator with the air scoop is a fine detail, not missing the two "ears" that the road car didn't have. There's also a great view to the engine compartment and the cockpit, with the trademark red steering wheel. Next to this one, we have an Altaya recently released Ford Transit MKII long chassis with rear double track. Excellent overall shape and lots of details to enjoy, like the roof mounted tray, carrying spare wheels and a spare front clamshell hood. We just add an Ixo double track trailer, and the set looks perfect. Unfortunately, Diabolique only had one year to exploit the Ford RS200, as Group B rules were replaced by Group A rules from January 1987. Driver Joaquim Santos was obviously frustrated with this enormous downgrade in performance, like all top drivers. At least he was back to a rear-wheel drive car and a powerful one, the Ford Sierra RS Cosworth. The car was made for race track activities and then converted to

rallying. It was a fast car in tarmac events, but struggled with lack of traction on gravel. However, the biggest problem was the lack of development from Ford Motorsport, at this early stages. The rally department was also testing and entering other Sierra version, the XR4i 4x4. This one had more grip, but the engine was worse than the RS Cosworth's. Diabolique had the two-wheel drive Sierra RS Cosworth, however, the availability of parts to build a competitive Group A rally car was scarce in 1987. The team spend the season trying to improve the Sierra without much success. Altaya released a copy of this car as it entered rally Portugal. It features the same livery as the previous year's RS200, with the Portuguese flag colours that also suited the secondary sponsor, Castrol. The shape of the model follows the real car's with some good details like the black window surrounds, a good antenna on the roof and a nice rear wing. Wheels are narrow



ABOVE Altaya released a nice replica of a 1986 Diabolique assistance van, the Ford Transit double track long chassis complete



ABOVE The last car ever entered by Diabolique was this Ford Sierra RS Cosworth 4WD

gravel items with mud flaps for the rear. A nice diecast that fills a gap.

STILL PUSHING

For the 1988 season, Diabolique had a new car, again a Sierra RS Cosworth, but now with a higher development level and a completely new livery. The scheme was the same as seen in Ford works car, with different colours to honour Castrol, now Diabolique Motorsport's title sponsor. The scale model is a diecast from Troféu, modelled with the usual care of this rally specialist model maker.

The shape is sharper than Ixo's, and there are more details and better reproduced. Two colour wheel rims are just an example, but there are many others like mud-flaps, roof antenna and especially the cabin detail, with red safety belts and steering. In 1989, Diabolique's Sierra looked similar to this one, with a few more sponsors. The biggest change in looks and tuning came in 1990. The

black Sierra with Castrol GTX3 had great presence; it had some minor changes, as the shape of the lower front bumper and the integral wheel rims, painted red and wider at the rear. An interesting fact is that all three Sierras use the same licence plate, something that was not uncommon with rally cars in this period.

Following the Ford works team, Diabolique Motorsport finally changed to a different car in 1990. Another Sierra, but this time a RS Cosworth 4WD. The engine had evolved from the previous car, and now Santos had four-wheel drive to fight other Group A cars equally equipped. Unfortunately, the

'The RS Cosworth was made for race track activities and then converted to rallying. It was a fast car in tarmac events, but struggled with lack of traction on gravel. However, the biggest problem was the lack of development from Ford Motorsport.'



ABOVE A trio of Ford Sierra RS Cosworth rear wheel drive. The white and red is an Altaya by Ixo, while the others are Troféu releases

car had several issues in the beginning of the season, and Doctor Oliveira said, "enough!" To get a replica of the last car ever raced by Diabolique Motorsport, we asked again for help from ModelHeart. They picked up an Altaya model and transformed it into the car Santos/Oliveira drove in 1990. The base diecast model is good enough in terms of shape and proportions. The red wheels look good, and the livery is very simple but grabs attention. Details like mud-flaps and roof aerial were added to the model, as were several details inside the cabin.

If the Doctor wasn't so tired of losing, maybe he could have waited for the next Ford rally car, the Escort RS Cosworth, a much more competitive machine that was entered by other local competitors in the following seasons and won titles in the country. Thirty years after Diabolique Motorsport closed its doors for the last time, it is still one of the most popular themes amongst 1:43 scale model rally car collectors in Portugal. ■

Corgi's Aviation Archive range recently had a new tooling added to it with the launch of the 1:72 scale Martin B-26 Marauder. The first model launched was a D-Day themed example (AA29501), and now a second model has just been released, representing an aircraft of the Mediterranean Theatre. The chosen identity is Martin B-26C-45-MO Marauder 42-107752 Miss Arkansas, as flown by Lt Leo A. Lampman of the 444th Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bombardment Group, 12th US Army Air Force, Decimomannu Airfield, Sardinia, circa summer 1944 (AA29502).

B-26 HISTORY

The B-26 initially attracted some unwanted nicknames, such as 'Widow Maker' and the 'Flying Coffin', because of the high number of aircraft lost to crashes due to its tricky handling characteristics. One of these was a high landing speed. It was a high-performance aircraft and was actually a delight to fly, but had some vices, such as that mentioned, which could cause problems for the unwary and inexperienced pilot. However, some design modifications and a revised training programme would soon improve the aircraft's fortunes.

A high wing, highly advanced monoplane, the B-26 was powered by a pair of Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp radial engines, the most powerful units available to the designers at that time. These provided the Marauder with an impressive speed compared with contemporary aircraft. The highly advanced nature of the design saw the introduction of much new technology, however, its relatively small wing and ever increasing operational weight requirements gave the B-26 an incredibly high wing loading, the highest of any American aircraft during World War Two, and a figure which was some 40% higher than that of the similar North American B-25 Mitchell. This high wing loading was something which made handling the Marauder extremely challenging for novice pilots to master and was a large reason why the aircraft suffered the high number of fatal accidents that it did during its introduction.

JIMMY DOOLITTLE STEPS IN

This period proved so challenging that it almost brought about the aircraft's premature withdrawal from service. Thankfully, the adoption of some design modifications and radical alterations to the flight training programme would result in a significant change of fortune for the B-26,

ultimately transforming the reputation of the Marauder from something of an aviation nightmare, to one of the most celebrated and successful combat aircraft of the war.

It was done under the leadership of famous American pilot and national hero Jimmy Doolittle, who took it upon himself to lead something of a high-profile charm offensive for the Marauder, flying it extensively to discover where its problems

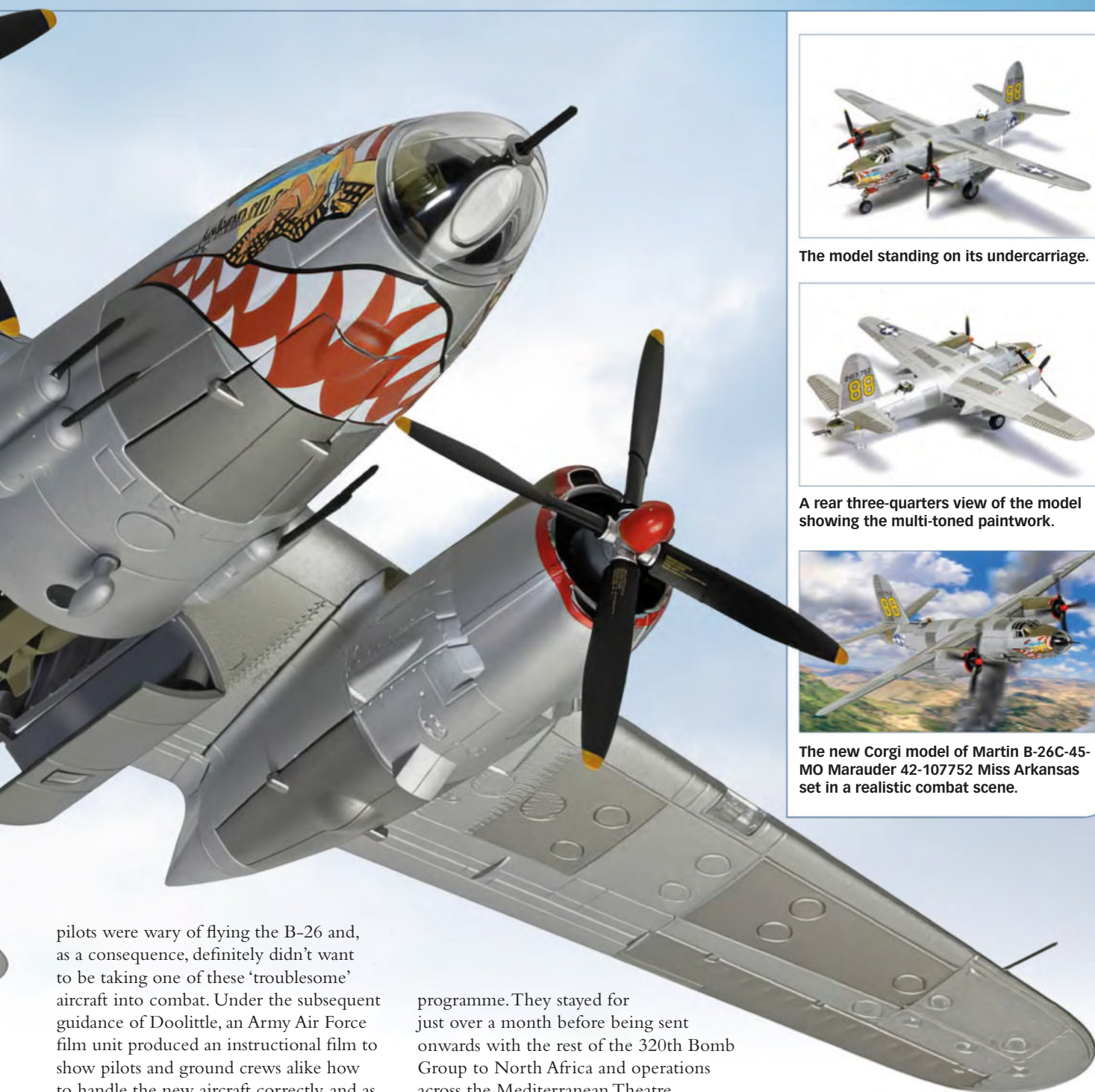
lay and, significantly, how to overcome them. He found the aircraft to be extremely capable, however, because it was rushed into service without first establishing a comprehensive pilot conversion programme, crews didn't know what to expect when taking on this challenge. With crews fearing the aircraft was flawed, damage to its reputation was by that stage almost irreparable.

This resulted in a situation where

Mighty Marauder

Jarrod Cotter looks at the second release of a new tooling in the Corgi Aviation Archive range, the 1:72 scale Martin Marauder.





pilots were wary of flying the B-26 and, as a consequence, definitely didn't want to be taking one of these 'troublesome' aircraft into combat. Under the subsequent guidance of Doolittle, an Army Air Force film unit produced an instructional film to show pilots and ground crews alike how to handle the new aircraft correctly, and as he successfully demonstrated the aircraft at airfields all over the country, it soon began to allay the fears of uncertain crews.

As we now know, the B-26 Marauder would go on to establish an excellent operational reputation, particularly when used in the medium altitude bombing role – it would ultimately go on to post the lowest combat loss ratio of any USAAF bomber used in World War Two.

UNIT CITATION

After some time, training in Florida, USA, the 444th Bomb Squadron was sent to England before completing the training

programme. They stayed for just over a month before being sent onwards with the rest of the 320th Bomb Group to North Africa and operations across the Mediterranean Theatre.

The Group was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for pressing home an attack against Axis troop concentrations at Fondi, in support of the 5th Army's push towards Rome, despite coming under heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire.

THE MODEL

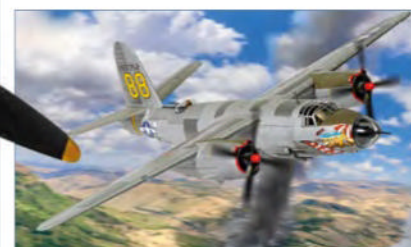
With a fascinating story behind it, the B-26 Marauder has been of significant interest to modellers and enthusiasts over the years. The particular aircraft chosen for this model was one of the most flamboyantly decorated of all the 444th BS Marauders, with a striking shark's mouth on the underneath of its nose and beach belle artwork on both sides of the aircraft's nose. The model's paintwork represents a



The model standing on its undercarriage.



A rear three-quarters view of the model showing the multi-toned paintwork.



The new Corgi model of Martin B-26C-45-MO Marauder 42-107752 Miss Arkansas set in a realistic combat scene.

bare metal multi-toned finish.

It has an open bomb bay option, revealing a bomb load, and parts to represent the undercarriage up or down. The propellers can rotate too. It has detailed crew figures and a cradle stand for display. Also included is a clear plastic support to place under the tail of the aircraft if stood on a surface with the undercarriage down as the model is tail heavy.

This die-cast model has a limited-edition run of only 1,500 units and has a length of 270mm, a height of 95mm and a wingspan of 300mm. At the time of writing it was still available direct from Corgi priced at £129.99, or have a look at your favourite dealer's website for availability. ■

MAIN PICTURE Corgi's new B-26 tooling features an opening bomb bay.



LEFT Jonathan and Sarah Torode of collectable and memorabilia specialists, Excalibur Auctions

A day in the life

Sarah, Director at Excalibur Auctions Ltd, offers a behind-the-scenes look at how their team brings extraordinary collections to auction, from initial enquiries to sale day.

A typical day at Excalibur Auctions starts with a staff briefing at 9am, where the team chats through their plans and the schedule for the day. By 9:30, everyone is busy sorting items for auction, photographing lots and conducting valuations. The excitement comes from the fact we never know what's going to come through the door next.

Every phone call or email could potentially lead to something like the Stretch Hulk toy we sold recently, or another rare 1930s *Superman* #1 comic. All enquiries are valuable, and every seller is as

important as the next.

I'm the main receptionist and administrator, so nine times out of ten it's my voice you'll hear when you call with an initial enquiry. Once the basics are covered and the auction process is explained, I pass the conversation or email to one of our specialists to provide detailed information, including the valuation.

Most initial enquiries are about how the auction process works, which for many people is a new and often intimidating prospect. We reassure all our sellers that their items mean as much to us as they do to them. We begin with photographs and lists

of items, or in-person visits to our premises or to customers' homes to evaluate the pieces. Once the value is determined, we work out the best way to bring the items to auction.

As collectables specialists, we sort items into logical groups — comics with the same title, posters of the same genre, or locomotives with the carriages they would have pulled in real life. Our job is to realise the best price possible. We earn a commission from what we sell; we don't own anything ourselves, so the better the result, the more we make to cover the bills.

Each of our specialists holds an auction every other month, and it takes the full eight-week period to curate each sale. That means weeks of sorting thousands of items into around 600 lots, followed by two weeks of photography — often many thousands of photographs — so prospective buyers can fully assess the condition of every item.

Every day is different in terms of what we're sorting, photographing or valuing, but every day the staff stop for a well-earned 'family lunch' at 1pm.

The afternoon continues much the same. Sometimes the team spends the whole day out collecting large consignments. A current project involves dealing with the closing stock of a London model shop. The last few weeks have been spent sorting the contents into groups. The first sort divided everything into model railway items, diecast models and kits/toys. The next stage sorted each of those into sub-categories — model railway scales, makes of diecast models, kit types, and so on.

Jonathan, our vintage toy specialist, is currently finalising the research and writing the lot descriptions. Once these are ready, everything is photographed and uploaded online. About two weeks before the live auction, the full catalogue is published and bidders can start browsing. Each lot has a detailed description and plenty of photographs. We then open for viewing so customers can inspect items in person. For those who live too far away, we provide condition reports and video viewing appointments to help them decide if they want to bid.

After the auction, the focus shifts to postage quotes. Our packing team works hard to put together cost-effective shipping based on packing time, weight and the level of wrapping required. They take pride in creating "bomb-proof" parcels. We also assist customers who bid in the room on auction day and collect their items immediately, as well as those who bid online but come in the following week to pick up their winnings. ■



Some of the closing stock of a London model shop collected by the team in September 2025.



This is just an example of something we're selling - don't know exactly what it is!



LEFT Erasmus' talent as a visual story teller is clearly reflected within his collection and photography.

latter two strictly VW models only. My love for Japanese culture also shines through, reflected in my Kyosho and Aoshima castings from the early 2000s, as well as NISMO and MINE'S-tuned vehicles and models from the iconic '90s JGTC era.

WHAT ARE YOUR HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT COLLECTING?

My tips for collectors are straightforward: First, avoid the temptation to buy multiples purely to sell on for profit — scalping takes so much fun out of this hobby for fellow collectors. Second, don't compare your collection to anyone else's. It isn't a competition — collect what you love and enjoy it your way. Lastly, always collect within your means. There's little joy in having a shelf full of models if it comes at the expense of financial stress.

WHAT IS THE HOLY GRAIL THAT IS MISSING FROM YOUR COLLECTION?

One of my dreams is to own a large-scale model such as a Schuco 1:18 Volkswagen. However, whenever I've saved enough for one, one of my real Beetles seems to need urgent repairs — always perfectly timed and never cheap. Right now, I'm facing a leaking head gasket, and parts are scarce, so the Schuco dream will have to wait a little longer! ■

Driven to collect

Erasmus Krisna rebuilt his collection after disaster struck and now celebrates air cooled VW icons, Japanese favourites and prizewinning images across a growing display of miniature motoring marvels.

WHAT GOT YOU INTO SCALE MODEL COLLECTING?

My diecast collection started in 2006. I have always loved cars since I was a kid, and I was over the moon when my mum bought me a Hot Wheels model — especially as they were very hard to find in my small hometown of Jayapura. But in 2010, disaster struck when our house was flooded, and around 90% of my collection was destroyed, with only a handful of models surviving. It was heartbreaking — but it didn't stop me. I began rebuilding year by year, gradually seeing the shelves fill once again. In 2017, I bought my first DSLR camera, and the very first subject I shot was my Hot Wheels collection, which

ended up becoming the start of my visual-arts career. As both passions grew side by side, I entered the Mini GT photography competition in 2024 and unexpectedly won 2nd place. My images were even featured in their 2025 calendar — a real highlight of the journey so far. Today, I continue to add models to the collection and photograph them; it brings me huge satisfaction.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

I now own two classic cars — a 1959 LHD VW Beetle and a 1973 RHD example — and they inspired me to form a Volkswagen-focused collection of air-cooled flat-4s from Schuco, Greenlight, M2 Machines, Hot Wheels, and Matchbox, the

What we reckon

Out of adversity comes light. It's inspiring to see how Erasmus rebuilt his collection after such a painful loss, and it's clear he embraces a healthy philosophy. Too many collectors get sidetracked by competition — size, rarity, bragging rights — and forget the simple joy that got them into the hobby in the first place. Erasmus strikes the right balance: models and the real thing, creativity and passion. Diecast is a wonderful world — but as he reminds us, there's more to life than just small scale.

Keith D'Souza



FAR LEFT The red Skyline is not just an ordinary 1:64 scale BNR34. It is a museum-exclusive release from the Prince & Skyline Museum in Japan, created in partnership with Kyosho as their signature collector model for visitors. A very underrated and rare R34 piece from Kyosho.

LEFT Another reason why I love Skylines is because of their legendary touring-car success from the 1990s to early 2000s. The Calsonic '12' BNR34 was the first car that made me fall in love with the JGTC.



After winning the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally, the Mini Cooper found newfound fame as a successful (perhaps that should read ‘giant killing’?) rally car. Corgi already had the Mini Cooper tooling, first seen in 1962, and managed to release their first Monte Carlo Mini in February 1964, within weeks of the rally finishing. Each subsequent year, the Mini won the Monte, Corgi produced a new model of the winning ‘works’ car, including the infamous 1996 disqualified winner (disqualified by the French organisers for having illegal headlight bulbs; meaning a Citroen won.) The final of the four different examples they produced was this one from 1967, and is of ‘LBL6D’ and driven by Rauno Aaltonen & Henry Liddon.

Corgi’s original Mini casting was produced, like the real car, in Austin and Morris versions, although this one is identified on its base as “BMC Mini-Cooper ‘S’ ” and is approximately 1:42 scale. The attention to detail on this, which was originally sold as a toy, don’t forget, is superb. Externally, this Mini boasts a full roof rack, complete with two spare wheels and tyres. I love that there is also a separate metal sump guard (how many modern models include such detailing?) and the additional front rubber splash guards that were fitted to the works cars. Four additional jewelled spot lamps are set within the grille, rather than correctly in front, but for a toy, this was probably the best way to include them. The number

Monte Minis

For the second time in recent months, **Steve Coles** dons his wellies and thick coat and heads to Monte Carlo in search of some Mini marvels.

plate is correctly shown on the front edge of the bonnet, just above the Morris badge on this version, and a 1967 Monte Carlo Rally plate is fitted to the front bumper. The same plate appears on the boot, along with the correctly positioned number plate. Finally, its 177 large racing numbers are on both doors, on what appears, in my example, to be a faded yellow background.

This high level of detail continues inside, too, which, considering how small and basic the interior of the Mini was, was no mean feat on Corgi’s part. The red interior shows two snug bucket seats and a separate steering wheel. Look a little closer, and you will spot that where the back seat should be, a range of rally-related items cast into the interior moulding. I have to say that of all Corgi’s Monte Carlo Minis, this one has to be my favourite (and not just because it’s the only one of the four in my collection!)

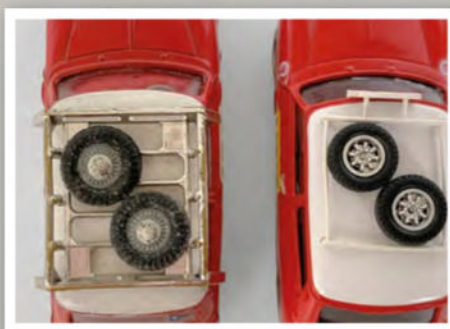
If you hunt online for more modern models of ‘LBL6D’, there are numerous manufacturers out there, including several part-works, who have made replicas in a variety of scales. Some are clearly ‘better’

than others, whilst some are much more readily available. I have chosen the slightly older Vitesse model, released back in 1993, to compare with the Corgi. I don’t own a huge number of Vitesse models from this period, but in my opinion, this one is great! Firstly, I think the overall shape looks good, and although it doesn’t state on the box, I am confident it is 1:43 scale. This makes for an interesting comparison when placed alongside the Corgi, as they are both pretty much the same size. This model also has a roof rack, complete with the two spare wheels. When you look at period photos of this Mini competing in the Monte, the roof rack it wears is a much smaller affair, with just enough room for two wheels side-by-side. There are also Monte photos of it without the roof rack. The real car is on display at Gaydon and, although now restored, does not wear a roof rack at all, hence why I guess many of the models you find are without a roof rack. The Vitesse example here does, however, include the roof-mounted Monte Carlo Rally plate. Other front details include the four additional spot lamps having their



daytime black covers on them and the number plate correctly located, just above a tiny Morris Cooper S badge and bonnet securing strap. Round the back shows the rally plate, GB badge, number plate and the additional round boot-mounted spot lamp that was characteristic of the works Coopers. The final touch is the meaty-looking twin exhausts that are centrally positioned. The only thing that I would say stands out about this model is that the majority of these decorations, including the tiny rosettes on the front wings, are all clear stickers and are beginning to show their age when compared to more modern printed details. The wheels, as you would expect on a newer collector's model, are much more accurate and depict the famous Minilite alloy wheels.

The interior of this model sports very similar looking buckets seats to the Corgi, a great looking sports steering wheel and has a much more comprehensive amount of dashboard detail. It does, however, have a regular back seat. No doubt newer models of LBL6D have finer detailing, such as separate wipers and door handles and much neater decals (much of the clear areas between logos is visible on this model), but this one has a huge amount of charm. Which Monte Carlo Mini is the best version here? For me, it's too close to call it. The Vitesse version is really good, especially considering it is over 30 years old. But the Corgi original has such a wealth of detail you wouldn't expect on a toy from over 60 years ago you can't help but feel amazed by it, and in awe of the designers of the time. ■



FACING PAGE The much older Corgi toy has some superb detailing, trumping the newer Vitesse in several areas. Note the different positions of the front Rally plate.

TOP Both cars feature the rear mounted rally plate. The Vitesse (right) also carries the powerful rear mounted spot light and larger bore twin exhausts.

INSET ABOVE LEFT The Corgi, despite its age, has a separate front skid plate (just visible under the front rally plate) and the front mounted spray flaps.

INSET ABOVE RIGHT The front of the much newer Vitesse has far more intricate detailing than the Corgi toy, down to the tiny bonnet closing strap.

INSET BELOW LEFT The Corgi (left) is just noticeably larger than the newer Vitesse, giving away its more unusual scale of approximately 1:42.

INSET BELOW RIGHT The additional spot lamps on the Vitesse (right) are correctly positioned in front of the grille. The tiny 10 inch Minilite wheels also look more in scale.



Superfast 1969-1982

Charting the evolution of the Matchbox Superfast range during the Lesney years.

VOLKSWAGEN 1600TL

Production: 1969-73

Catalogue: 1969 (2nd)-73

Box Styles: F, G

Always a favourite in the regular wheels ranks, Volkswagen 1600TL made for a great Superfast too.

One of the six regular wheeled models to get the upgrade nod in 1969 ahead of the rest of the range, it first appeared as a transitional model in its regular colour and kept its opening doors, before being changed to the marvellous metallic purple you see above.

But Lesney wasn't finished yet – when the time came to upgrade to the wider wheels and the body needed modifying accordingly, the VW got a new coat of paint too – in deep metallic pink.

HOT ROCKER

Production: 1974-78

Catalogue: 1974-78

Box Styles: I, J

Hot Rocker is a reworking of No 54 Ford Capri – it even shared the white interior and clear windows of its donor sibling – with a big shiny chromed engine protruding from where once the bonnet was. Initially released in various shades of metallic green it would later appear in a rather fancy orangey-red.

Being a Rola-matic, when the car was rolled along, the huge engine bounced up and down as it was pushed by a peg on a front wheel. It was a short-lived model, being withdrawn in late 1978, but the it was revived for the American market in 1982.



ABOVE Thankfully, when the VW 1600TL became a Superfast, it kept the opening doors feature.

DATSUN 260 Z

Production: 1979-82

Catalogue: 1979-82

Box Styles: L

Matchbox's first model of a Japanese production car was based on the second series of the very successful Datsun Z-car, the 260Z. It was a very good model with opening doors and a towing hook. Early versions were painted metallic magenta with a black-painted base and cream plastic interior.

In 1981, the colour was changed to silver with red interior and, in 1982, red and black GT stripes were added. Datsun 260-Z 2+2 was phased out the following year but continued to be available in the Two Pack range in metallic blue, where it was teamed with a racing boat and trailer. ■

FOR COLLECTORS, BY COLLECTORS
INSIGHT, STORIES, DISCOVERIES, AND MORE

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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Collecting the caped crusader

How ninety years of storytelling
transformed Batman into a
global phenomenon

+ CLOCKWORK WONDERS

Exploring the intricate
marvels that once amazed
Victorian collectors

+ SUPER 8 MOVIES

Discover the magic of
Super 8, from childhood
memories to rare reels



» TOY TO TREASURE

The unlikely journey that secured Graham
Farish's enduring place in railway history

TOYS & COLLECTORS' MODELS

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& KNIGHT

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to include Live steam and sundry related items, all gauges of model railway & railwayana, diecast models including Corgi, Dinky, Matchbox, tinplate & Triang, juvenalia, Britains & plastic kits etc.

View: Thursday 26th 10am-5.30pm
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Star Wars memorabilia has a way of turning childhood memories into serious investments. From vintage Kenner figures to limited-edition lightsabers and rare prop replicas, the galaxy far, far away has inspired collectors for nearly 50 years. But what happens when a collection like that becomes part of your estate?

Recently, I helped a client whose Star Wars collection was valued at £75,000 for probate purposes, and it's expected to achieve significantly more at auction. Every inch of his home reflected decades of devotion: pristine boxed figures, rare promotional items, even autographed memorabilia. For him, these weren't just possessions – they were memories, achievements, and part of his identity.

But here's the catch, even the most carefully curated collection can be mishandled or undervalued. Often, families simply don't realise what they're looking at. What might seem like “old toys” could be worth tens of thousands. Consequently, collectors, whatever their interests, need to consider clear instructions in their wills.

WHY A STANDARD WILL ISN'T ENOUGH

As a Collector Wills Specialist at Ramsdens Solicitors, I often see collectors assume that a standard will covers everything. In reality, most don't account for the nuances of collectables, such as how to value, store, or sell them, or which experts to trust when the time comes.

For example, we worked with a bank note collector whose family were moments away from donating what they thought were worthless papers to charity, until we discovered they were highly collectable and

What can Star Wars teach us about wills?

Stephanie Bradley, Collector Wills Specialist at Ramsdens Solicitors, looks at how one Star Wars fan's incredible collection highlights why every collector needs a specialist will.

sold for over £80,000 at auction. Without our intervention, that collection would have been improperly disposed.

On another occasion, we acted as Professional Executors for a philatelist whose £300,000 stamp reached the right buyers through specialist auction houses – a process that required considerable thought and care.

These examples all highlight how a specialist will recognises your collection and ensures it is properly handled to create a valuable and meaningful legacy.

ENSURING PEACE OF MIND

Whether a collection comprises diecast models, vintage comics, or film memorabilia, a specialist will, supported by expert legal insights, offers an opportunity to leave tailored guidance for Executors. For example, it can outline appropriate auction houses or appoint specific professionals who understand niche collections.

One of my clients, a lifelong medal and coin collector, was terrified his family might simply sell everything online. Once we

updated his will with detailed instructions, he told me he finally felt “at peace” knowing his collection would be treated with respect. He's now chosen to sell during his lifetime, with our help connecting him to the right professional establishment.

A NEW HOPE FOR COLLECTORS

The Star Wars saga may be rooted in fiction, but its message to collectors about handling their legacy is very real. Collectors of all shape and size need to keep in mind how their legacy protected and appreciated as well as suitably handled by family members and executors.

With the right plan in place in a specialist will, you can ensure your passion doesn't just fade into the background once you're gone. Instead, it can continue to inspire, excite and bring joy to future collectors – it might even spark someone else's passion for collecting.

After all, your collection isn't just a set of items, but it's also part of who you are, so it's important to make sure it's looked after accordingly. ■

ABOVE A large collection of Star Wars figurines



Long before Home Video players, DVDs, streaming and Blu-ray, the magic of cinema could fit in the palm of your hand. For a generation of movie lovers, Super 8 reels weren't just celluloid – they were portals to Hollywood, spinning on projectors in living rooms across the world. I was ten when I first threaded a delicate film reel of a classic B-movie onto my Super 8 projector, and that whirring sound still feels like pure nostalgia to me and to other Super 8 film collectors throughout the world.

A CHILDHOOD OBSESSION BEGINS

My first glimpse into home cinema came in the early 1970s when my parents bought a silent Super 8 projector from a photographic store. Eventually tired of endless holiday reels and wedding films, we decided to rent a 'proper' feature film to watch on a pull-up screen — or a magnolia wall in the lounge.

At a Huddersfield photo shop, my father and I sifted through a meagre selection of Disney shorts and B-movies before choosing Universal's *Frankenstein*. The abridged silent version, peppered with cue cards, was admittedly underwhelming, even for a ten-

Super 8 movies, super collectors

Richard Bevan explores the enduring charm of Super 8, from childhood memories and rare reels to the community keeping analogue cinema alive.

year-old — but the thrill of seeing a 1930s classic on a screen four times bigger than our TV was unforgettable.

Things improved with a sound projector bought a few years later and mail-order blockbusters to choose from. Waiting for a reel to drop through the letterbox was as exciting as Christmas morning — though I'll never forget the disappointment of receiving *Summer Holiday* starring Cliff Richard instead of special effects Oscar-winning *The Poseidon Adventure*.

Even at twenty minutes, watching that doomed ship capsize on our lounge wall was pure magic. That childhood obsession never faded — and it's the same passion that drives Super 8 collectors worldwide today.

THE THRIVING UK SUPER 8 COMMUNITY

Far from fading into obscurity, the UK's Super 8 scene is alive and well. Fan clubs and conventions offer collectors a space to share reels, swap stories, and celebrate the artistry of analogue cinema. These gatherings often feature film fairs and projection nights where classics like *Star Wars* or *Casablanca* flicker across screens in their original format, complete with the hum of projectors and the warmth of celluloid.

For collectors, these clubs are lifelines for sourcing rare prints, learning restoration techniques, and connecting with like-minded cinephiles. From regional meetups to national events like the British Film



Collectors Convention (BFCC), the community thrives on nostalgia and craftsmanship.

Prices of Super 8 films can range from as little as £5.00 for a pre-owned 200ft Sound reel of a favourite movie at a Home Movie film fair to many hundreds of pounds for a rare title. A cursory glance on eBay reveals that a 400ft (32mins) Super 8, Colour, Sound reel of the 1978 'Superman' movie is a snip at £9.73. Whereas a 'rare vintage' Super 8 black & white and complete version of the classic 1957 movie 'The Incredible Shrinking Man' is listed at £40.22. My very own 50ft reel of Walt Disney's 'Donald & Pluto', first

FACING PAGE Vintage Walt Disney films on a Facebook Super 8 Collectors page.

ABOVE Lucky dip set of Super 8 cartoon and live action vintage films for sale on Facebook.

encountered under the family Christmas tree in 1971, can command £40. Prices are often higher on Amazon and other specialist platforms. But the rule of thumb is that the rarer the film, the higher the price when selling.

An example is a pre-owned Super 8 'Flintstones Dino the Hero' by Hanna Barbara, which at an undisclosed length and sold in the US, is ticketed at £104.70.

FAN SITES

A quick scroll through Facebook's many Super 8 collector groups reveals a diverse community, from seasoned enthusiasts to collectors in their twenties and thirties — all drawn to the tangible nature of film. In a world dominated by digital downloads, the ritual of holding a reel and threading celluloid through a projector carries an almost romantic quality, making the experience truly unique.

The community of collectors on the social site presents enthusiasts devoted to the format, ranging from the '8mm and Super 8mm film collectors' to 'Super 8 Film Nights' with 1.8k members and the more cosy online club 'Friends who like Super 8 & 16mm Collectables' with a manageable 720 members.

Stephen Walken, 62, has never lost his love for the Super 8 format ever since he first bought an abridged version of 'Star Wars' as a teenager for £12 to show to family and friends as part of his own home cinema events, complete with the family dog dressed as an usherette.

"Star Wars made me fall in love with cinema. When I was able to project my own personal film of it, with sound coming only from the projector, it was so thrilling. It was an event in the home. My very own cinema and me as the showman. Even though I stream movies and TV shows and still use my DVD player, there's something unique about such a nostalgic tactile format like 8mm film — in the same way connoisseurs of vinyl records appreciate the physical appeal of handling and playing vinyl on a turntable."

Belinda Ingham currently trains at the Metropolitan Film School in Ealing, where digital technology is at the forefront of her training. It is rare for her to handle film as she and fellow students shoot on HD tape, but *film* has a special place in movie-making history for her and many other students.

"I can't afford to shoot on 35mm or 16mm, and so Super 8 is a quirky, affordable way of getting that celluloid fix. When I discovered a world of movies to buy on Super 8, it went from a hobby to admittedly a bit of a geeky obsession. Part of the fun is searching and finding vintage movies, rare and oddball flicks such as those made for art house audiences in the 60s. I also love the community of fellow Super 8 collectors which is refreshingly geeky and passionate, which in a way is part of the fun. It's not just about finding a movie out there to buy on eBay or specialised sites, but it's also about the camaraderie" ■

Richard will be continuing his Super 8 tales in a future issue of Collectors Gazette



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1. Graham Farish 4-6-2 Southern malachite green Merchant Navy no. 21C22 'Holland America Line' with Golden Arrow adornments. Sold for £190 at Vectis Auctions in 2010.
2. A rare three rail 'Formo' set from 1953 consisting of Q class 0-6-0 loco, 7-plank wagon, steel mineral wagon, vent van, brake van and an oval of tinplate track.

In the days before N gauge and Bachmann trains, 'Farish' was a big player on the post-war model railways scene. The company was set up to manufacture radio components in 1919. Its founder was Thomas Graham Farish. Evidently, Mr Farish had an eye for the latest opportunities, as the company successfully added related domestic products through the 1920s and 30s. These included electric fires, water pumps, and even lids for vacuum sealing glass jars. They were also one of the first companies to exploit an exciting new material: Bakelite.

During the Second World War, the business was largely engaged in military production, their diecasting, general engineering and electronics expertise proving ideal. Such was the case with many toy makers. After the war, these firms were looking for new products, and like many others, Farish felt the model railway market offered new opportunities. The most obvious gap in the market was for two rail flexible track, which was a perfect product for the talents available to the company. The production of 'Formo' and later 'Formoway' track and points (turnouts) in many varieties was highly successful into the 1960s.

From toys to treasures

Graham Farish made everything from radio components to water pumps - but that didn't stop them from carving out a place in toy train history, as **Mark Nolan** discovers.

GOING LOCO

Farish were early into the production of two rail locos, but they used unusual mechanisms. This was probably because the motor they chose was one which had abundant and cheap availability from having been used in other wartime products.

The range filled many gaps and eventually included an ex-LMS Black 5, Southern Railway Bullied pacific, GWR Prairie, pannier tank and King class locos.

In 1952, with an eye on the US market, a 'Hudson' was announced, with tender drive

from a 12-wheel tender in HO scale.

Due to the size and nature of the motor, they ended up with it in the tender, but driving the loco wheels through a drive shaft. This worked well when the engine was gallivanting along the track, but not so well at slow speeds and over pointwork.

Current collection on the tender drive locos was also problematic. Conventional wisdom is, the more pickup points, the better. Early Farish locos only collected power from a single sprung pickup on each rail. With only one plunger making contact with each rail, it only took a momentary loss of power to cause the loco to stall.

The early locos were only in production for a few years. By 1957/8 they were appearing in clearance adverts in the trade press. It is likely that the strange mechanism puzzled the average modeller, and many are found today to have been re-motored. The second phase locos were the original Prairie and a new GWR pannier tank, with diecast bodies and a common basic chassis. These were available from about 1963 for around ten years. With



2



3

near scale wheels and a conventional motor, these were reliable models of reasonable accuracy and indeed the only ready to run versions of these prototypes until the advent of Mainline and Airfix in the late '70s.

DIECAST WAGONS

Faced with a need to launch a small range, Farish chose a slightly different approach to Dublo and Tri-ang. Despite being extraordinary little pieces of engineering, with delicate detail on the chassis and even a separate brake handle, they don't quite fit in with anything made by the other mainstream manufacturers. It does, however, give them a quirky charm, and could form a sub-collection (yeah, right!) without too many spondoolies changing hands.

Although they had fine detail and quality castings, the range had no graphics of any kind. It was as if so much went into the design and construction that there was no budget left for the all-important names, initials, and other graphics usually found on rolling stock. Maybe the buyer was supposed to 'finish' the model as whatever variant they wanted.

The diecast mini-range consisted of W1 Match truck, a plain flat wagon of a single casting with a planked floor effect; W2 was similar with a bolster attached. W3 was a low-sided 3-plank wagon, with W4 representing a higher-sided 5-plank wagon. W5 was a 7-plank coal wagon, while W6 was a steel mineral wagon. The detail on the mineral wagons was never as well defined as the others in the series.

Finally, two vans: W7 was a double-vent goods van with a tinplate roof. W8 was a short-wheelbase, double-veranda brake van with duckets and vertical planking.

The models came in one style of box with great Art Deco graphics. The space for model identification was often left blank.



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3. GWR tank loco trio, including Pannier Tank No.9410 and a 2-6-2 Prairie Tank No.8103.

4. Farish OO 'K' type Pullman coach 1961.

PULLMAN COACHES

Some of the most popular Farish models were the imposing chocolate and cream Pullman coaches. They were excellent models, but the combination of diecast and cellulose acetate construction turned out to be a disaster for collectors. Mazac fatigue set in many years later due to impurities in the metal; the diecast floor expanded, causing a double bow in the roofs, meaning that few Pullmans have survived undamaged.

It is claimed that over 100,000 were made in the early 1950s. They came with a range of names, including Lydia, Minerva, Pauline, Phyllis and Iolanthe.

COLLECTING FARISH

Due to the scarcity of surviving records, it is difficult to determine exact production dates, particularly when specific models ended production. Many dates have been deduced from adverts in the trade and model press. It has to be said that Farish looks more utilitarian than its main counterparts: Hornby Dublo, Triang and Trix.

The Farish collector's lot is not an easy one. Locos are often found with valve gear missing, an indication that Farish never

quite got this right. The Mazac problems, which led to the disintegration or distortion of models and components, will have discouraged many collectors. But for those with open minds and a willingness to get stuck in, Graham Farish OO gauge has proved to be an interesting range to run and collect.

LATER PLASTIC ROLLING STOCK

The problems with the locos led Farish to clear their railway stocks and not return to train production until 1961, eight years later. The later plastic rolling stock enjoyed wide popularity. Their range of coaches and wagons supplemented the mainstream manufacturers, filling numerous holes in the range. However, the company shrewdly moved decisively into N gauge and discontinued their OO range when they saw Airfix and Palitoy about to enter the OO market.

Latterly, the brand was more associated with their N gauge range, which started in 1970 and was bought by Bachmann in 2000. Thanks to this, the Farish name lives on, unlike Dublo, Trix, Playcraft and numerous other brands which flourished and then declined. ■



Automata have fascinated people for centuries, even as far back as Ancient Egypt. Varying in complexity from figures moving by hand-turned levers to intricate tableaux and sculptures powered by clockwork, water, gravity or electricity, automata never fail to entertain and amuse.

It is known that the Ancient Greeks partially animated statues for use in ceremonies and theatrical productions, while in China there are records of a flying magpie constructed out of wood and bamboo. During the sixteenth century Leonardo da Vinci devised a lion automaton in honour of Louis XII, which advanced forward before opening its chest and pointing to a design of the fleur-de-lys.

It became a craze among wealthy people from the seventeenth century onwards with people intent on collecting ever more complex automata. Jacques de Vaucanson created some of the most famous automata between 1709–1782, including The Duck. Made of gilded copper, the duck drank, ate, quacked and splashed in water. Another Vaucanson speciality was a 5ft 10in-tall flute player standing on a pedestal. The lips and

From silver swans to mechanical violins

Angela Youngman explores the world of historic automata that captivated generations, with complex creations and occasional hoaxes peaking among Victorian collectors.

fingers of the flute player moved due to a complex mechanism powered by a current of air.

There were also hoaxes. Wolfgang von Kempelen took a life-size, chess-playing Turk on tour around the courts of Europe and the USA. For a long time it was regarded as a marvellous automaton until observers discovered that it was actually a puppet, operated by a man located inside the mechanism.

Some automata took years to perfect. In the early nineteenth century, Joseph

Faber spent 25 years making an automated Euphonia which produced sounds similar to the human voice, allowing it to recite the alphabet, sing, laugh and greet visitors. By 1893, George Moore had created a steam-powered man capable of reaching a walking speed of nine miles an hour.

The Victorian era witnessed a golden age of mechanical automata, particularly in France, Germany and England. Makers such as Vichy, Roulet & Decamps, Bontems and Renou were highly sought after by collectors keen to obtain the latest designs.

- 1. Silver Swan print image: Victorian visitors flock to see the Silver Swan as it moves**
- 2. The newly restored Silver Swan displayed at the Bowes Museum**
- 3. The medieval Bromserhof, home of Siegfried's Mechanical Music museum in Rudesheim, Germany**
- 4. Unusual automated Orchestrian with six violins within Siegfried's Mechanical Music museum**
- 5. Mr Wendel explains how the Weber-Maestro orchestrian works**

Almost every type of subject was created, from singing birds in trees to clowns, people in everyday life, walking and performing animals. One of the most archetypal automata was Rouillet & Decamps' pouncing tiger. The company produced several variations ranging from a simple crawling tiger to an elaborate version which opened its mouth, crouched, pounced and growled.

The development of industrial techniques and mass-market production enabled automata to become more widely available, ultimately becoming children's clockwork toys rather than expensive adult amusements. Such toys had a variety of movements, sometimes going in circles or straight lines or even moving backwards and forwards in curves. Some toys would operate simple instruments like drums as they marched around, or might flick a coin into a box while others involved several figures revolving at different speeds when a handle was turned.

Museums often contain examples of automata, especially within toy sections where clockwork drummers or carousels can be seen. Larger displays can be seen at the V&A and British Museum while Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire, has an elephant that waggles its ears. Seeing such items in action is rare, but occasionally this is possible. One of the most iconic such examples can be seen in County Durham.

Thousands of visitors come every year just to see the Silver Swan at the Bowes Museum. Incredibly intricate, the swan sits on a silver lake, bending its neck to pick up a fish. Dating from the late eighteenth century, it was originally owned by a London jeweller called James Cox. A century later, jeweller Harry Emanuel exhibited it at the Paris International Exhibition where writer Mark Twain saw it. He wrote: 'I watched a silver swan which had a living grace about his movements and a living intelligence in his eyes – watched him swimming about ... seize a silver fish from under the water and hold up his head and go through all the customary and elaborate motions of swallowing it.'

It has been part of the Bowes collection since 1872 and has just undergone a six-month restoration by the Cumbria



Clock Company. This involved cleaning and repairing more than 2,000 individual components, including twisted glass rods, individual feathers, fish, and a musical box playing eight separate tunes. Even after restoration, the mechanisms are so fragile that it is only operated once or twice a day by museum staff at set times.

Finding ways of automating music led automata makers to develop music boxes and musical instruments that could be played, usually by turning a handle or lifting a lid. Ranging in size from small boxes to large fairground and street organs, these automated musical objects are extremely attractive and popular. Collectors often demonstrate these at shows and steam fairs around the country.

By far the most comprehensive collection of automated musical objects can be found in the Rhineland town of Rudesheim, Germany. Located in the Bromserhof, an old medieval knight's residence close to the centre of town, Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum contains over 400 self-playing musical instruments, many of which

are demonstrated during guided tours. These range from tiny birds to an orchestrian with six violins, all of which are maintained by the museum owner, Mr Jens Wendel.

Developing a collection of automata offers extensive options, since it is possible to develop a general or specific interest. Automata, particularly simpler versions such as mechanical toys, frequently appear at auction. Prices can vary considerably. Condition and rarity have to be borne in mind. Specialist attention may be required to return an object to working order or create replacement parts. In 2025, a rare original boxed Gustave Vichy clockwork bell-ringing monkey on a tricycle dating from 1885 was sold for £2,700. At the same auction, a 1900 Rouillet & Decamps monkey mechanical toy made £280.

Isometimes feel that the world is full of unanswerable questions. Take those gigantic T-shaped cranes that dominate serious building sites: just how do they set up the counterbalance and add the jib without the whole thing toppling over? Then again, there's the snowplough driver: how does he get to work?

This issue features two toy companies about whom virtually nothing is known, so the above preface is quite apposite. But first, a word about the underlying strand that joins them both.

PLUSES AND MINUSES

The humble battery, today the mainstay of so much of our world, has a long history, with the first primitive examples seeing the light of day back in 1800, believe it or not. However, like most technology, it would take time before the concept set off down the miniaturisation route yet be able to retain the necessary power to actually make things work.

By the 1930s, smallish batteries were making their presence felt in the toy marketplace: companies like Lineol and Hausser, in Germany, brought out vehicles as well as composition figurines that held something that could be lit up by a battery. Not mainstream, and certainly not for everyone, these examples weren't cheap.

The aftermath of the Second World War changed everything, though, as the Japanese began their ascendancy within the tinplate market, with toys that ran on battery power.

In 1958, a US newspaper article revealed that around 25% of the small (torch type) battery production was being absorbed by the toy market. Clockwork, clearly, was becoming old hat in comparison.

But having a moving robot or toy car was one thing; batteries were also regarded favourably by the handful of companies interested in more educational ends.

SECOND TO NONE?

When you set out your market stall with products bearing a Latin moniker, it seems to me that you've done your homework. Such was the case with Childs & Smith, a family-run business based in Atherstone, Warwickshire.

Around 1956, the enterprise began to market its toys under the Nulli Secundus name; nothing like telling the world how good you are, methinks.

Information on this fascinating company is pretty much non-existent, but it appears that three tethered flying toys were produced during its brief lifespan; there is also a belief that some sort of



Power play

When the battery achieved its full potential, toys duly benefited, writes **Alwyn Brice**.

Meccano toy was manufactured, but I've yet to see any evidence of this.

Educational? I'd like to think so, for up until this time, a child simply couldn't fly a toy plane or helicopter with any degree of control. Whether the company's trio of flyable machines were a fortunate, timely offering, I couldn't say; but they certainly created an instant niche.

Relying on a diecast base control unit with three buttons, a pivoting arm suspended from an upright pole, itself attached to the base unit by a metal tube, a tinplate helicopter hanging from the arm could be made to rise and fall whilst flying around the pole. The whole thing had to be wired up and a battery installed, and any lucky recipient would probably have required parental help. Box art hyped the whole thing, with a tantalising image of a helicopter hovering over an aircraft carrier.

A Dan Dare-inspired version was also marketed (with suitably futuristic box art), but I'm uncertain if it was actually licensed. To accompany the helicopter, a simple monoplane was issued too, working with the same setup.

Much more elusive, though, is the flying saucer; this was described as being based on the film "The Forbidden Planet", which came out in 1956. Again, copyright might have been dubious (!), and frankly, it's a dull-looking object, so it possibly didn't sell as well as the other two flying craft, despite riding the sci-fi wave; this may well account for its scarcity today.

A battery-powered remote-controlled car (with the same diecast controller) was also manufactured by Nulli Secundus; giving a child the ability to drive or fly seems to have been this particular firm's guiding light.

OVERHEAD MYSTERY

Bilbax, as a product name, has featured in my writing before in terms of aluminium model cars. And then there's Baxtoys. Were the two linked? It seems likely, but what's the story? Once again, I'm in the dark here.

If you are fortunate enough (and I mean that – I've come across just two examples in four decades) to find one of this company's conveyors, you'll know that

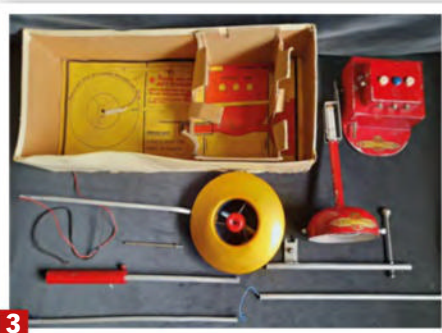


Billbax and Doumor are both mentioned on the box label. However, the conveyor is marked Doumor (meaning “do more”?) by Baxtoys. The plot thickens.

(I have the feeling that someone out there must know about this mysterious company, for it seems illogical to suppose that an enterprise can be established and then vanish into thin air).

In terms of the conveyor, my guess is that here we have something dating from the 1950s; more than that, it's hard to say. Whatever, this is another example of a company cashing in on battery power to enable a child to enjoy a working model. At least two sets were manufactured; the first set is fairly basic and requires the recipient to rig up the wiring between household furniture to allow the conveyor to progress back and forth with its bucket. It is extremely hard to find now, probably because of its simplicity. Set 2 (was there ever a set 3?) is the one that you're likely to see, and includes a quartet of wood and metal poles, so that the whole overhead system is freestanding.

Box art shows two delighted lads controlling the conveyor; its bucket, sadly, cannot be made to tip electrically, but you can't have everything. Aside from Meccano, with its Magic Motor, I cannot think of anything that came close to this unusual toy. Definitely educational and once again, rather fiddly for small hands to assemble. In passing, it's worth noting that a Baxtoy electric trolley car (working on similar overhead principles) is another rarity to look out for if this sort of thing appeals to you. The company also produced a large-scale battery-powered tinplate railway set; and... who knows what else? ■



1. Boxed helicopter set from Nulli Scundus is the most common survivor
2. The very scarce Forbidden Planet set: did the company have a marketing licence?
3. Inside the Forbidden Planet box it's all rather familiar – save for the hockey puck
4. The helicopter, like the monoplane, was a simple tinplate affair
5. The Set 2 in all its glory: a rare find now
6. Label from a No 2 set shows a panorama guaranteed to fire the young imagination

It took just under one year, in the late 1930s, for DC Comics to appreciate the success of Superman in *Action Comics*. The word went out to find another hero. That call was answered by Bob Kane and Bill Finger in the shape of “the Batman” as he was first known. DC Comics’ flagship, *Detective Comics* number one, had started in March 1937 prior to Superman’s first adventure. Superman arrived in *Action Comics* number one in June 1938 and *Detective Comics* number 27, the very first Batman tale, was published in May 1939. As the title suggests, this was a more Earth-bound comic with stories of crime, murders and mobsters, not interplanetary adventures. The idea behind Batman was to create a “clever” hero but without special powers. Bob Kane is credited with his origin but there were bat characters prior to this time, including in a 1930s film with Douglas Fairbanks Jr and an early pulp character called the Bat. Nonetheless, the DC Comics Batman world was more intricate and was seen as something new.

Just like Superman, Batman was an instant hit, and he was cover-featured in every alternate issue of *Detective Comics* until issue number 35 when the constant cover-feature chain started. Very quickly, in *Detective Comics* number 38, Robin was introduced (April 1940) as DC Comics wanted a younger version of Batman to hold the interest of readers of a similar age. Batman soon had his very own title too and *Batman* number one was issued in spring 1940. DC Comics was fast becoming an industry colossus. It captured the girls’ market in 1942 with Wonder Woman. By this time many comics were being produced by a large number of companies seeking to claim their slice of the action, but DC Comics regularly took legal action to put many of these fledgling firms out of business if DC felt its copyrights were being infringed.

Batman rivalled Superman as DC Comics’ main hero. The similarities were major as both heroes had secret identities, both had “love interests”, both even had secret bases. Batman was first with his Batcave but Superman later got his “Fortress of Solitude”. Where Batman differed is with his ward, Robin, and his butler at Wayne Manor, Alfred, and, of course, Batman needed to use his wits where Superman had his superpowers. This endeared Batman and Robin to the public as they could relate far more easily to a human.

Batman and Robin were soon starring in not only *Detective* and *Batman* comic books but *World’s Finest*, and Batman, minus Robin, was seen in *All Star Comics* as an

Batman battles on

Gerald Edwards delves into the fascinating history of DC Comics’ Batman, a major icon for nearly ninety years and still going strong. Holy heroes, Batman! as Robin would say.

honorary member of the Justice Society of America from issue number seven until the magazine folded with issue number 57 in 1951. As Batman had starred in so many other comics his appearances in *All Star* were quite limited. Not to be forgotten, Robin was also given a short series of solo adventures in *Star Spangled Comics* in the late 1940s/early 1950s in issues 65 to 130.

Batman appeared in many of the later issues after number 95 as a “guest” star! The early issues of *World’s Finest* featured separate Superman and Batman stories but, starting with issue 71, they teamed up, along with Robin.

Of course, it was not just comics that made Batman and Robin household names. The biggest event was, in fact, due to



television. In 1966 the *Batman* ABC TV series hit the screens and triggered one of the biggest merchandising explosions ever. At this point in time, the Batman comic sales had slumped and there was a very real danger of Batman comics being cancelled. Then *Batman* hit the TV screen and this all changed overnight. The perfectly cast Adam West as Batman and Burt Ward as Robin heralded a true “bat era”. It wasn’t only the heroes. The villains were popular too as many of Batman’s foes were colourful in themselves — the Joker, Catwoman, Riddler and Penguin in particular. The show was a “must see” and even spawned its own movie. The Bat toys filled the shops. Toys, games, sweets, bubble-gum cards, action figures, jigsaws — in fact anything that could be even remotely related to Batman was merchandised. Quite a number of Bat-guns were made too but part of the Batman lore is that he never used a gun (except in a couple of very early comic book stories). Some of these guns are very rare indeed. The boom only lasted a couple of years but it has left a large cache of classic must-have collectables and rarities are almost common! The best known is probably the Corgi Toy Batmobile. Millions were produced and still are. Whilst not uncommon, nice examples still fetch big money. The more difficult toys to locate are the plastic ones which were less robust and are now around sixty years old. The original packaging was superb and commands big money even for the empty boxes. Highly collectable too are the different sets of Batman cards issued by A&BC in several series in 1966. The wrappers are highly sought after too, especially the later ones.

Once the '60s Bat craze died down there followed a less productive period, but there were always Batman toys in production from many makers. The next boom came in 1989 when Tim Burton’s *Batman* movie received very good reviews, particularly with the excellent performance of Jack Nicholson as the Joker. Then came the *Batman* cartoon series of the early 1990s following on from the *Batman* movie. Kenner started a *Batman* Animated line of figures, play-sets and vehicles. *Batman* started being produced in dozens of different outfits, all with an action feature. It was hard to keep up with all the new variants. The cartoons were very well done and rekindled *Batman* interest. The full array of *Batman* villains was on show including all the main ones such as the Joker, the Penguin, the Scarecrow, the Riddler and Clayface. Since then there have been *Batman* movies every few years, many along with *Superman*.



The merchandise has followed. It seems every movie or cartoon has to have its own version of the Batmobile and then add in the Batcopter, Bat-boat, Bat-cycle, Bat-wing, Bat-plane and an ever-changing Batcave and you have a sea of collectors’ items. One of the hardest things about all of these Bat-items is the near impossibility of collecting them all! This is in addition, of course, to collecting the comics which number into the thousands, and then there are the original art pages and covers too.

Much of the early comic-book output is long gone. The paper drives during World War Two consumed many comics. Early

issues are now pretty scarce. In the 1950s the numbers produced fell too as interest in comics waned or moved to a different genre from the superhero magazines. The revival of interest in 1966 was just at the same time as DC’s main rival, Marvel Comics, was beginning to establish market dominance. If the *Batman* television show had not come along at precisely that time, who knows where the comic-book market — and the movies and merchandise it has since spawned — would have been? Right now it looks as if the DC universe is on the up and Marvel’s has stalled. *Batman* is still swinging to the rescue on his Bat-rope! ■

On the 16th of November 2025, I, alongside my boyfriend, attended the J & J Fairs toy fair in Spalding, Lincolnshire.

It was both of our first times attending a toy fair, and I'm pleased to say I was genuinely, pleasantly surprised by the whole experience. Before going, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. I had imagined something quite niche and quiet, perhaps full of very serious collectors poring over items I knew little about, but instead, I found the atmosphere welcoming, lively, and much more engaging than I had anticipated.

The fair officially opened at 10am, but we didn't arrive until around 1pm. I had been a little worried that arriving later in the day would mean we had missed the peak excitement and that the venue would be nearly empty as the event edged towards closing time. To my surprise there were still around 70 to 100 guests wandering around when we arrived. That number gave the fair a comfortably busy atmosphere—not overcrowded, but far from quiet. Still, I'm fairly sure there must have been a significantly larger crowd at the opening time, especially among the more experienced or dedicated buyers who likely wanted first pick of any rare finds. It made me think that in the future, arriving earlier might give an even fuller experience, even though 1pm turned out to be a perfectly enjoyable time to go.

Before attending, I had expected the fair to be heavily focused on older toys, especially classic diecast brands like Dinky and Corgi. These were the kinds of toys I associated with traditional collectors' fairs, and indeed, there were plenty of them on display. What surprised me most, though, was just how many toys from the nineties and the early noughties were also represented. It gave the event a nostalgic twist I hadn't anticipated. There were stands featuring Barbie dolls from various eras, boxes of Pokémon figures and cards, a selection of Star Wars items spanning multiple generations, and a particularly impressive setup of Scalextric pieces—which, unsurprisingly, became my boyfriend's favourite section of the entire fair. Seeing him light up at the sight of those miniature racetracks and cars definitely added to my own enjoyment.

One of the things that stood out most was the sheer number of Hot Wheels tables. There were far more than I expected, but considering the continued popularity of Hot Wheels, it made perfect sense. Some of the collections people were selling—or simply showcasing—were enormous, with cars arranged by colour, series, rarity, or even theme. It was honestly a little awe-inspiring to realise how much dedication goes into collecting something as small as Hot Wheels



Childhood treasures at Spalding toyfair

Our Junior Content Editor **Amelia** recently went to her first toy fair; this was her experience and thoughts on the event.

cars. For some, it's clearly more than a hobby; it's a passion that has taken years to build.

In addition to the diecast vehicles, there was a large and varied selection of model trains and accessories for train sets. I found it fascinating to look at the tiny details on the carriages, the miniature landscapes, and the beautifully crafted buildings that accompany the trains. The only thing that gave me a moment's pause was the pricing. Some of the models were priced so high that I felt a bit intimidated, and it certainly deterred me from making any impulse purchases. However, I'm fully aware that my lack of knowledge probably plays a huge role in this. Many of these models are likely special editions, rare pieces, or items with significant historical or collector value, so while the prices seemed steep to me, they were probably quite reasonable within the context of the hobby.

The fair was spread across two rooms, which made the experience feel more spacious and varied than I expected. Walking between them gave a nice sense of progression, almost like exploring two different chapters of the same story. Each room had its own mix of brands, eras, and display styles, and I was genuinely impressed by the range of items available. One of the

absolute highlights for me was unexpectedly stumbling upon a stall with Hannah Montana memorabilia. I didn't expect to feel such a jolt of childhood nostalgia, but seeing those items immediately took me back to my younger years, and it added a fun, personal touch to the outing.

The admission fee was £3.50, and I honestly think that is more than reasonable given the number of stands, the variety of toys and models, and the time you can easily spend browsing. Plus, the presence of a little café inside was a lovely bonus. After wandering the stalls for a while, it was really nice to be able to sit down, rest our feet, and take a little break before having one last look around. The café made the whole event feel more relaxed and community-oriented, which I appreciated.

Overall, I really enjoyed myself, and the fact that my boyfriend enjoyed it too made it even better. It was something different from our usual weekend activities, yet simple, engaging, and genuinely fun. It will definitely be something we do again, as it made for a lovely, low-pressure activity for a Sunday afternoon—something that gives you a reason to get out, explore, reminisce, and maybe even pick up a new interest along the way. ■



Memories are us

Ed Karswell ponders the world of model collecting.

Nostalgia is a strange thing, isn't it? After all, when memories are apparently reconstructed by the brain, they're often an amalgam of things rather than verbatim recollection. This must be how police investigations come to label some witnesses as unreliable.

If you think back to your childhood, you may be able to recollect a particular event such as Christmas when you received a particular toy or the times you played with it your toys in the back garden. Now you may remember the garden and the toy but possibly not that particular day. We all fill in these bits to give us a warm glow and complete the picture. I was recently recalling my years in Junior School to a friend. The rainy break times when they brought out what to us appeared to be an ancient box full of comics. I loved it and I do remember when one day it rained particularly hard, and it came over very dark indeed. The boisterous atmosphere in the room slowly grew quatter as the wind ensued. If I think very hard, I do remember myself and another boy, Andy I think his name was, comparing our matchbox cars we had brought in. I don't recall mine but his was

a well-used Matchbox Superfast mercury rat rod which I coveted. All of this can be lost for years and then suddenly it comes to mind in an instant, triggered by something like smell or a fleeting image.

It can certainly work in reverse for us as far as toys are concerned. I fondly remember receiving two androids made by Dennis Fisher for Christmas back in the 70's. They were great toys and now very collectible. I do recall is having them at my Grandparents on Christmas day but more so the day itself. In fact, years later when I had the chance to purchase a pair of them at a reasonable price, I found that deep down I didn't really want them. What I really wanted was to relive that day.

It's very true that when people say they regret selling something, say, a beloved family car, it's not really the car they want back on the drive it's the perception of happier times past and the car is just a totem of this. The fact that the past looks like a known quantity and the future

always looks uncertain certainly plays a part in this.

That's not to say I don't buy toys out of nostalgia, far from it. If I didn't, I wouldn't have Action men, Matchbox cars or vintage Star Wars figures in my collection. Of all these though it was a set of Star Wars Topps trading cards that won the day even with that awful gum they put in the packs!

There are also the things that get lost in time and never have their time in the nostalgia spotlight. Take for example the Panini sticker books: no not the boring football ones [save the abuse] I'm talking about the prehistoric dinosaurs versions from around 1978. I loved the artwork and as I recall very nearly completed the excellent book, they issued to affix the stickers in. I can't recall seeing a single copy since. They could be very difficult to swap as not many of us kids could pronounce all the dinosaurs names! At one stage I honestly believed the writers had made some of them up once they'd run out of the official ones.

So, memories in a nutshell are not always as reliable as we'd like to believe yet can still surprise us with something out of the blue. Now I've just remembered that Tony Wilkins in my class had a Brontosaurus sticker, and I need it that to complete page 39, I wonder if he'll swap it for a bag of cheese flavoured football crazies? ■

'When people say they regret selling something, it's not really the car they want back on the drive it's the perception of happier times past and the car is just a totem of this.'



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As a stallholder, I'm often asked about the methods employed in the care and repair of old toys, be they diecast, tinfoil or plastic.

The questions range from parts availability and feasible projects to just chatting about techniques or materials. I've been tinkering with old toys for a fair while, so I thought I'd share what I've learnt so far.

If you, too, are a seasoned restorer, you may already be well-versed and may possibly want to add to the well of knowledge. If you're a beginner, you may be wondering where to start, what you'll need and how to go about it. Firstly, there is no set path, and everyone acquires their own way of doing things. However, it's a good idea to think about what you want to achieve. You may want the challenge of restoring models in very poor condition, or simply like to be able to affect a little TLC on an otherwise sound specimen. Whichever route you take, you'll need some tools and a space to work.

TOOL KIT

You're not likely to utilise all of the following for full restorations but it's a good starting point.

Small screwdriver set. Long nose pliers. Modellers' file set. Craft knife. Small ballpeen hammer. G clamps. Toothpicks. Drill [A dremm type with attachments comes in handy.] A small fruit knife [Not sharp]. Finally, a bench vice with removable jaws.

For adhesives, Everbuild Superglue is very good. Araldite Rapid works for more involved repairs. For bigger jobs, Plastic padding Super steel is excellent. I've used car body filler in the past for blending repairs, but Milliput will also do the job.

For stripping down castings of paint, there are a few ways. Proprietary paint strippers can sometimes be messy and ineffectual against older paint finishes. Caustic soda is a very good alternative, although care should be taken, and because of the fumes given off, it really should be used outdoors. To finish, a brass-bristle wire brush followed by fine-grade wire wool will clean up the bare casting. Enamel and cellulose thinners are great for degreasing castings before painting.



Having the right tool to hand is essential for projects to run smoothly.



ABOVE Having storage for tools and projects is a great idea. It's ideal for storing all those fiddly bits.

The Renovation Game: Part One

In this series, **Ian McDermott** takes a look at restoration, preservation and everything in between.

For the cleaning and polishing of models, it's altogether gentler. Cotton buds and a good quality polishing duster are a must. Anti-bacterial cleaners such as Dettol will safely remove dirt from paint and glazing. Household furniture polish will suffice for most things, although for delicate things such as transfers and lithography, conservation grade waxes such as Renaissance come to the rescue. A trusty tool to assist with most of the above is the humble toothbrush.

If paint has faded or you want to polish up a model yourself, a mild cutting compound like Farecla works well. T-cut is

also good, although like anything abrasive, take care and take it slow. Always follow up any cutting of paint with a protective coat of wax.

Finally, if you are working on clockwork motors or battery-operated models, WD-40, 3in 1 Oil and a soldering kit will be sound investments.

SPACE AND STORAGE

A good working space is nice to have, but not always possible. If you are going to spray paint, do so only in a well-ventilated area with protective equipment. If the environment is too cold or humid, this will adversely affect the paint finish.

Now, something I regularly fail to achieve is keeping all my tools organised. Invest in something to keep all your tools, spares and projects. Being organised will not only ensure all your projects run smoothly, but you won't end up losing any vital parts either!

The list isn't exclusive or exhaustive, and no doubt there are other products. It is merely the basics, so you'll have everything to begin a project and hopefully many more.

Next month, I'll take a look at restoration candidates. ■



It's surprising how many different types of glue you can try before finding one that works for you.

RIGHT Costing 81 euros, Universal Hobbies' new Massey Ferguson 5 M tractor has a detachable front loader.



Although the spotlight was firmly on full-size tractors and machinery, the show also delivered a strong line-up of new scale models from leading manufacturers, giving miniature farming enthusiasts plenty to get excited about.

UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Universal Hobbies produced numerous new and special edition 1:32 scale models for OEMs to sell at the show. At the Claas shop, key models included the Arion 6.190 tractor (89.90 euros) and Jaguar 80 SF forage harvester (119 euros). AGCO licensed both European and US versions of the Fendt 1052 Vario tractor, along with the Fendt 516 Vario (95 euros), and the 515 Vario with front loader (100 euros). Valtra's highlight was a titan grey S416 with dual wheels (87 euros). Massey Ferguson offered a 5 M with front loader (81 euros), a 5M.145 (73 euros), an 8S.265 XTRA (76 euros), a black edition 9S (83 euros), and a metallic red 9S (86 euros). Both Fendt and Massey Ferguson versions of Universal Hobbies' Ideal 9T combine were priced at 238 euros.

To celebrate New Holland's European heritage, they built a Fiat concept tractor for the show, and Universal Hobbies produced a limited run (1,500) of its model for 71 euros. Other Universal Hobbies tractors for New Holland included the Dynamic Blue T7.210, Blue Power T7.225, and T5.120 (with and without front loader). The gold edition of Universal Hobbies' New Holland CR11 combine, shown as a special release,

Agritechnica '25

Attending Agritechnica, Europe's largest farm machinery event, **David Pullen** joined around 470,000 visitors from 171 countries in Hannover in November.

was expected to be available after the show. For Case IH, visitors could choose a Farmall 120C with front loader (75 euros) or without (69 euros), plus a Steyr 4120 Plus priced the same as the Case IH models, also available with or without a front loader.

Joskin offered two new Universal Hobbies models: a Tornado muck spreader (95 euros) and a Leboulch trailer (85 euros). From Amazona, the ZA-TS 4201 fertiliser spreader (44.90 euros) and Catros 5003-2 disc harrow (69.90 euros) were available. Amazona also previewed a Pantera 7004 self-propelled sprayer prototype, expected to be available in spring 2026. Horsch showed its Leeb 6.280VL/6.300VL sprayer prototype, which will also be available in spring 2026. Ropa displayed the prototype Tiger 6 sugar beet harvester, currently in development by Universal Hobbies.

MARGE MODELS

At Claas's shop, MarGe Models' new Axion 9.450 CMatic (129 euros) and Axion 9.450 TT (142 euros) tractors were available, each model limited to 2,000 pieces. Also available was the new Jaguar 1200 forage harvester with Orbis 10500 maize table (209 euros).

At the CNH stand shops, they offered models of the new Case IH Optimum, New Holland T7.440XD, and Steyr 6440 Cerus CVT tractors, all launched at the show.

MarGe Models presented on its stand black editions of the new Claas Axion 9 tractors, made for Claas, limited to 300 units and priced at 135 euros. Announcements were made for a December consumer launch of the Axion 9.390 tractor and the Claas Jaguar 1090 with Orbis 10500 maize table. The Claas Axion 9.420 with all-round dual wheels will debut in January. MarGe Models also displayed the prototype for the Kuhn SW4014 bale wrapper, which will also appear in Deutz-Fahr branding, and announced a Strautmann Magnon 11-530 forage wagon in development.





ABOVE Newly tooled Claas and Liebherr wheel loaders being released by AT Collections.



ABOVE North American version of Universal Hobbies' newly tooled Fendt 1052 Vario tractor features dual crop wheels and costs 100 euros.



ABOVE A 2,000 model run from Claas, MarGe Models' new Jaguar 1200 forage harvester with Orbis 10500 maize table costs 209 euros.

RIGHT Alongside the real T7.440XD tractor's launch, New Holland, at its shop, had this model by MarGe Models for 158 euros.



ROS

ROS launched two new tractors: the Claas Axos 3.120 (89.90 euros) at the Claas shop and the Steyr Type 180 (1947) (144 euros) at Steyr's shop. The planned Alpego combination drill ROS, available at the Alpego stand for 169 euros, sold out its 1,200-unit run on the first day.

To mark 25 years since Krone launched the BigX forage harvester, a special black-edition model was released (169 euros, limited to 2,500 units). With the debut of Krone's new BigPack HDP 11 1290VC baler, ROS also introduced models: a Zebra Edition (limited to 500, 169 euros), a standard baler (149 euros), and a baler with a bale collector (159 euros).

FACING PAGE The prototype for Universal Hobbies' new Horsch Leeb 6.280VL/6.300VL sprayer it expects to release spring 2026.

AT COLLECTIONS

Available from Claas, there was a Torion 1611P wheel loader with grass forks, limited to 2000 models, from AT Collections for 139 euros. Alongside the model available from Claas on its own stand and widely available, there was a Liebherr and another Claas version of the wheel loader. These have different tyres and come with a grain/dirt bucket, which is available from Claas. On its stand, AT Collections was also showing 3D printed prototypes for a 1:32 scale JCB 6300 Fastrac tractor, expected Q2 or Q3 2026, and an Atlas 1304 wheeled excavator. Also expected in 2026 is a Meijer Holland Fred 3-4 Heavy-duty bale grab.

OTHER MODELS

John Deere was expected to launch two special-edition Britains tractors at the show.

However, they only released a special edition, limited to 300 models, the John Deere 9RX 830 tractor. At Case IH's shop, they were selling the Steiger 785 tractor for 167 euros, which Ertl had made for the North American Farm Show. New from USK Scalemodels, available at the Fendt shop, was a 314 Vario tractor. Limited to 3000 models, this version was supplied in a metal box. Profi had commissioned a special show tractor, a Fendt 209 tractor with dual wheels made by USK Scalemodels. Limited to a 1000 model run, it costs 89.90 euros. Available at Deutz-Fahr were two special edition 6135C tractors, each costing 101 euros, from Weise-Toys. Weise Toys also announced it expects to release two special edition MB-trac 1100 tractors before the end of the year. Finally, at the Fendt shop, there was a 1/32 832 Vario tractor, the only new tractor from Wiking, for 110 euros. ■

Most diecast manufacturers worth their salt used to include a military offering (token or otherwise) within their ranges. After all, cars and buses and lorries were aimed, in those carefree, sexist days, at young boys: and young males traditionally had an interest in warfare. It was that simple.

IN THE BEGINNING

If you collect military vehicles, then you'll know all about the grandfathers of the genre.

Active as far back as 1893, Britains, initially famous for its hollowcast figurines, would move into army vehicle production at some point in the early 1900s. This company's output was prodigious, for here was a colossus which bestrode the market, one without peer. The two world wars provided stimuli for military transport, which led to a range of trucks, armoured cars, guns and, later, tanks. Some models benefited from opening features for play value, whilst others had very lengthy runs, like the huge 18-inch howitzer, which boasted an intricate firing mechanism; and pretty much every boy must have had a matchstick-firing Britains 25-pounder field gun in his toybox in the 1960s.

Early output, both pre- and immediate post-WW2, may seem basic by modern standards but serves as a reminder of what could be achieved in those early days.

Dinky was another stalwart and was quick to produce an interesting range in the post-war years: in 1953 its Scout Car was introduced, which paved the way for around three dozen vehicles and guns, as well as a Centurion tank. But its earliest military issues actually appeared before the second global conflict, in 1937. The highlight of the range, for the (very) lucky few, had to be the Mechanised Army set that incorporated all the released models, 12 in total. In its drop-down front box, it set the pace for things to come. Unfortunately, at least in my view, many of the later Dinky releases, those appertaining to the 1970s, lacked the authenticity of the earlier output because of the corporate decision to add firing functions. An example of market competition at play?

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Another early arrival on the military scene was the Skybirds range. This company evolved from a schoolboy's passion for aircraft (that of James Stevens), who began making 1/72 scale wooden kits around 1932. This novel concept was marketed by one Alfred

RIGHT Every manufacturer liked an armoured car and Benbros was no exception
FAR RIGHT The long-running 18in howitzer from Britains. Early versions came with a gunmetal finish



ABOVE A very attractive Beetle lorry with canvas tilt was a popular Britains diecast model

The green belt

In the first of a two-part feature, **Alwyn Brice** presents an eclectic survey of classic British military diecast manufacturing.

Holladay and the range expanded rapidly, necessarily embracing airfield accessories; initial vehicles "borrowed" from Johillco and Taylor & Barrett would in time be supplemented by Skybirds' own castings.

These latter, it has to be said, varied in quality but nonetheless fulfilled a need; miniature cannon, a troop tractor, a petrol refueller and a delicate anti-aircraft gun are amongst the delights to hunt down. The firm was wound up just after the Second World War and, given the materials shortages of the era and the cottage industry style

of production, it's surprising that many examples still survive today.

THE YOUNG PRETENDER

Slightly late to the party, Corgi also saw an opening within the military theatre - and so it brought out in 1959 a stunning Corporal missile on an erector truck. A launch pad was also made available, all of which would lead to a Bloodhound and Thunderbird rocket, as well as allied equipment: this culminated in the marketing of a very topical package, the Rocket Age gift set.





A small range of green vehicles (or khaki-coloured, depending on your viewpoint) followed in 1965. Corgi, it has to be said, was not a company to miss a trick – which is why this collection strangely embraced US, British and German vehicles, all sporting US Army decals. However, there was little new here: the VW Kombi, the Land Rover, the Commer, the Oldsmobile, the Carrimore, the tanker and the Karrier were simply re-imagined (i.e. repainted) civilian versions already extant. That said, these models were superior to Dinky in terms of finish and, naturally, boasted the differentiating factor of glazing.

Like Dinky, Corgi had a few forays back into the military sector in the 1970s, but these models were eclipsed by science-fiction models and other genres.

HOME BREW

If you err towards the quirky and the esoteric, then Kemlows has much to commend it. It all began just after WW2, in London, where an ordinary terraced house with an outbuilding served as the initial factory for diecasting.

A bare casting of a field car, of Dinky scale, was produced in 1946, the idea being that the recipient could add their own camouflage. A field gun for towing was a natural corollary to this. In the 1950s, in line with the growing popularity of Lesney, the smaller Sentry Box range

came out: jewel-like and fitted with metal wheels, these models were simple yet nicely finished, some with decals. By the end of the decade, though, Kemlows was back to bigger models in the shape of the ever-popular 25-pounder field gun, limber and quad. Aping the Dinky product range, it went on to manufacture a 3-ton Bedford truck and an armoured car. One oddity from Kemlows that very occasionally turns up is that of a rocket launching pad, complete with plastic missile.

Kemlows was a survivor, although today toys do not feature in its business.

A BROS PRODUCTION

Benbros reigned for just 14 years, so was yet another example of a short-lived business. Jack and Nathan Benenson were behind the enterprise (hence Ben Bros), and production started in 1951, again in London.

Company output was in various scales, but under the Qualitoys label, it issued almost a dozen military vehicles, albeit some sharing the same underpinnings. These products were akin to Dinky models in size and some, it has to be said, looked rather like Lone*Star products. In its smaller scale, the Mighty Midget line, other military subjects can also be found, such as a Land Rover, Staff Car and a tank.

Today, it's the larger Benbros military models that are not often encountered.



ABOVE LEFT Ice cream anyone? Well, perhaps not – it is an army field kitchen, right?

TOP Highly prized Mechanised Army set from Dinky; another great marketing stroke

CENTRE Not so common Kemlows trio comprising a 3 ton truck, limber and 25 pounder

BOTTOM Troop carrier and searchlight from Skybirds; the former's chassis doubled for the armoured car and refueller

FROM LONDON TO WALES

Back in 1922, Crescent Toys entered the market, and although primarily a figure producer, it had the *nous* to enlarge its offering; that was one reason, perhaps, that it would last until 1980. It also had the distinction of opening a factory in Wales.

Without a shadow of a doubt, its military claim to fame was the trio of models that comprised a field gun, limber and Saladin armoured car. Available as a set (or singly), this ensemble had a lengthy production run and endeared itself to the recipient by virtue of the fact that both armoured car and gun could be made to fire.

Functioning 5.5-inch, 18-pounder and 155 mm cannon also appeared in its portfolio, as did a six-wheeled towing lorry: plastic addenda rather spoil this latter, and it's not too common. Rarer still is the long range gun mounted on an articulated lorry: it's a stunning piece, and well worth tracking down. ■

PRICE GUIDE

Rounding up the latest toy sales from across the country with a brief visit to specialist auction rooms...



♣ **Budgie Toys 202 Refrigeration Truck.** Blue and red cab with silver (type 1) Trailer & base, flat hubs with treaded tyres - Excellent overall bright example of a Fair (complete) early issue in A1 carded picture box. *Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 264 Racing Sidecar Outfit.** Good Plus bright example in a Good Plus A9 carded picture box. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 280 SuperFueller "Air BP".** Green, and white with yellow tanker platform, grey plastic hubs and clear windows - Excellent lovely bright example in a Good Plus B2 carded picture box. *Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Zebra Toys (Benbros) 32 Daimler "Ambulance".** Good Plus to Excellent (small chips on side protruding edges) in a generally Good striped carded picture box. *Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 202 Refrigeration Truck.** Good (does have chips on cab unit) in a Fair to Good (scuffs on corners) RARE "Littlelois" Carded picture box showing correct model illustration. *Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 268 Land Rover "AA Road Service".** Yellow body with black roof and base, silver plastic hubs, with windows, "WLM 899" Number plate - Good Plus including A9 carded picture box. *Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 290 "Tonibell" Ice Cream Van.** Blue body with all correct decals, silver front lights and grey plastic hubs - Excellent plus lovely example in a overall Good B2 carded picture box. *Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Zebra Toys (Benbros) Bubble Car.** Red body with yellow interior, silver trim and metal wheels - Fair - A Hard issue to find. *Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 218 Mobile Traffic Control Unit.** "Jumbo" - "AA" - Yellow body and (type 1) Trailer with roof windows, black trim and hubs - Good Plus including A1 carded picture box. *Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 274 Refuse Truck.** Yellow cab and chassis with black trim, metallic blue (Type 2) Tipping back, silver front lights and rigid hubs - Near Mint in a Good Plus to Excellent B1 carded picture box. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 322 Routeman Pneumajector "The Atlas Carrier Co".** Light blue cab and chassis, off white tanker, silver trim and blue plastic hubs, (Excellent in a Near Mint (sealed) C2 window box. *Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Benbros (Qualitoys) Euclid Rear Tipper.** Metallic blue cab and chassis, silver trim, yellow tipper with side decals mid-blue hubs - Good Plus to Excellent (couple of small chips) in a Good Plus carded picture box. *Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 262 Racing Motorcycle.** Good Plus to Excellent lovely example in a Good Plus A9 carded picture box. *Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Budgie Toys 278 Land Rover "RAC Radio Rescue".** Blue body, black 278 base and hubs, aerial, "WLM 899" Number Plate and with windows - Good Plus bright example in a generally Fair to Good (grubby) B2 carded picture box. *Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Dinky Toys (Dublo) 072 Bedford Articulated Flat Truck.** Yellow Cab Unit with red trailer, knobbly black plastic wheels - Excellent (Apart from usual chips on coupling) in a generally Excellent plain yellow and red carded box. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Benbros (Qualitoys) Articulated Petrol Tanker "United Dairies" (224).** Good Plus overall in a Good plus generic carded picture box with correct end print. *Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ Benbros (Qualitoys) Land Rover "AA Road Service". Deep yellow including figures and hubs (without aerial) - Fair Good in a Good carded picture box. *Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ Corgi No. 258 The Saint's Volvo P.1800. generally excellent in excellent box with folded leaflet. *Sold for £120, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, November*



♣ Cult Scale Models 1/18 diecast model issue comprising Austin 1100. Harvest Gold. Excellent and secure in box. *Sold for £120, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November*



♣ Dinky Toys - A boxed Dinky Toys Gerry Anderson's 'Joe 90' #102 'Joe's Car'. overall appearing to be in Very Good condition - which would be enhanced with cleaning. *Sold for £120, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ Benbros (Qualitoys) Express Window Service Motorcycle And Sidecar. Fair to Good (does have loss of paint on arches) in a Good (slightly grubby) carded picture box this is a Extremely hard and Rare to find model. *Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ Corgi No. 277 The Monkees TV show Monkeemobile. generally excellent in excellent window box. *Sold for £220, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, November*



♣ Autoart 1/18 diecast model vehicle issue comprising Steve McQueen Collection GULF Le Mans, Porsche 917K. Excellent and secure in box. Box with minor storage wear. *Sold for £120, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November*



♣ Corgi - Heavy Haulage - A boxed limited edition Kenworth W925 with King Trailer and rock crusher load # US\$5705. The models appear Mint and come with mirrors and certificate in a Good box with some light storage wear. *Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ Corgi No. 13 Power Major Tractor and four Furrow Plough giftset. generally excellent in excellent to good plus box and plinth, with Driver figure. Contents appear complete but unchecked. *Sold for £95, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, November*



♣ Corgi No. GS 13 Tour De France set. generally excellent in excellent to good plus window box. *Sold for £220, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, November*



♣ Goldshield Collectables 1/18 diecast model vehicle comprising special edition 22ct Porsche 911. mounted to wooden plinth within special presentation box. Excellent plus additional outer boxes included. *Sold for £90, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November*



♣ A DINKY 182 Porsche 356A Coupe in red with spun wheels. Very good in a very good box. *Sold for £130, Excalibur Auctions, November*



♣ Corgi No. 64 FC Jeep Working Conveyor. generally excellent (black rubber conveyor belt appears intact) in good box (one end flap missing) and excellent inner plinth, with figure (without sack). *Sold for £45, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, November*



♣ Corgi No. 497 The Man From Uncle Thrush-Buster. generally excellent in excellent box with inner pictorial plinth. *Sold for £140, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, November*



♣ A boxed Product Enterprise diecast 'Supercar'. The model appears to be in Mint condition housed within a Fair Plus, somewhat dusty window. *Sold for £120, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ A CORGI MAJOR 1126 diecast Ecurie Ecosse Racing Car Transporter in light metallic blue with red lettering to sides. Very good in a very good box. *Sold for £120, Excalibur Auctions, November*



♣ Corgi No. 240 FIAT Ghia 600 Jolly. generally excellent in excellent box. *Sold for £100, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, November*



♣ Sunstar 1/18 diecast model issue comprising Triumph GT6 MK3. Excellent and secure in box. *Sold for £60, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November*



♣ Corgi Toys - A boxed Corgi Toys 1st issue #267 Batmobile. The model appears to be in Very Good Plus condition with some nibbles on raised edges mainly along rear fins. *Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ A SUNSTAR 2922 1:24 scale diecast London RT double decker bus. in London Transport country area green livery, complete with mirror pack and certificate - excellent in good box. *Sold for £120, Excalibur Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 2b Jeep Hot Rod.** pink body, RARE DARK YELLOW INTERIOR, lime green base, 4-spoke wheels - Excellent. *Sold for £140, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 9b AMX Javelin.** Mint in Good Box without New. Superb example which just needs the box upgrading. Very rare blue interior. *Sold for £700, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 14d Leyland Articulated Shell Tanker.** Near Mint in Excellent Plus to Near Mint Box. Nice example. *Sold for £100, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 27b Lamborghini Countach.** Near Mint unboxed with minor factory casting flaw to left hand side of roof & couple of minor factory paint flaws to base. *Sold for £400, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 2d Blackburn Buccaneer S-2 Jet.** VERY RARE TAN PLASTIC FOLDING WINGS - Good to Good Plus with some light play wear, particularly to nose which has considerable paint loss, in Good Box. *Sold for £110, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 9c Ford Escort RS2000.** overall Excellent in generally Excellent Box. VERY RARE FACTORY ERROR. *Sold for £120, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 18a Field Car Twin Pack Issue.** Excellent with a few chips to front bumper & chip to left hand side rear wing, in Near Mint Box with small reference label to 1 end flap. *Sold for £140, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 27b Lamborghini Countach.** Near Mint with minor mark to label & couple of factory paint flaws to base, in Good Box with tape repair to 1 end flap. *Sold for £340, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 3c Porsche 911/930 Turbo.** RARE RED INTERIOR, CHARCOAL GREY BASE, 5-arch wheels - Near Mint in Excellent Box. *Sold for £90, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 9b AMX Javelin Twin Pack Issue.** Excellent unboxed with a few minor paint chips. model still displays well. *Sold for £120, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 19b Road Dragster.** Near Mint, in Excellent Box with minor small tear to 1 end flap. Nice example. *Sold for £320, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 32a Leyland Tanker "N.A.M.C. The Miniature Vehicle" Promotional Issue.** Excellent Plus in Near Mint box. Still a nice example of this rare promotional issue which displays well. *Sold for £950, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 5c US Mail Jeep.** Near Mint unboxed. *Sold for £80, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 10b Ford Mustang Piston Popper.** Mint apart from very minor pin size factory assembly paint chip to left hand edge of roof, in Excellent box. *Sold for £340, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 21c Renault 5TL.** Near Mint, in generally Excellent box. *Sold for £170, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 35a Merryweather Marquis Fire Engine Rare Promotional Issue "Flame Proof Wool."** Excellent Plus in Good Plus Promotional Box. *Sold for £380, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 7b Hairly Hustler.** Near Mint with rare purple windows in generally Excellent box. *Sold for £110, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 11c Bedford Car Transporter.** Good Plus with some chrome loss to wheels & some chips to front & rear bumpers, in Fair box. *Sold for £90, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 24b Team Matchbox Racing Car.** Near Mint, in Good Plus Box with small puncture hole to 1 picture face. *Sold for £320, Oberon Auctions, November*



♣ **Minichamps, a boxed 540851812 1:18 Scale Ayrton Senna Racing Car Collection Lotus Renault 97T 1985.** Excellent in a generally Excellent box with internal packaging. Please note one rear sticker has some slight peeling. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ Autoart Millennium, Jaguar XJ13 1:18 scale boxed model. Conditions generally appear Excellent in Good box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ A Boxed Corgi Aviation Archive Battle Of Britain Memorial Flight Set. Excellent in a generally Excellent box. **Sold for £60, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ A Boxed Minichamps 1960 Norton Manx Ray Petty Bike 1/12 Scale. Excellent condition in good box. **Sold for £100, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 41a Ford GT40. Good Plus in Good Plus to Excellent box. **Sold for £90, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ A Boxed Corgi Aviation Archive War In The Pacific PBJ-1D. Excellent in a generally Excellent box. **Sold for £35, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Supertoys B.B.C. T.V. mobile Control Room. Good condition with a fair box. **Sold for £35, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ A Boxed Minichamps Triumph Speed Train 1/12 Scale. Excellent condition in good box. **Sold for £85, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 44b Ford Boss Mustang (US Issue MB11 Cobra Mustang). Near Mint with usual factory tampo print flaws, in Good Plus to Excellent Box. Rare factory wheel error! **Sold for £180, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ A Boxed Corgi Aviation Archive Boeing B-17F Flying Fortress. Excellent in a generally Excellent box. **Sold for £55, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Toys A.E.C. Hoynor Car Transporter. Good condition with a fair box. **Sold for £40, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ A Boxed Minichamps Jordon Mugen Honda 198 D.Hill 1/18 Scale. Excellent condition in good box. **Sold for £35, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 45b BMW 3.0 CSL GERMAN MARKET ISSUE. overall Excellent with discoloured labels from glue bleed, in Good later period 1978 Copyright Box. **Sold for £80, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ A Boxed Corgi Monkeemobile #277. Model is in good condition, box is very worn and clear window is broken. **Sold for £55, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Toys Space 1999 Eagle Freighter. Good condition with a fair box. **Sold for £120, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 37e Matra Rancho. WITHOUT BURNT ORANGE SIDE STRIPE TAMPO PRINT, Excellent Plus in Good box. **Sold for £60, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 45b BMW 3.0 CSL. Near Mint (note: front, in Fair worn but still complete Box. **Sold for £180, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ A Boxed Corgi Carrimore Transporter Gift Set #28. Transporter only, no additional cars, in good condition. **Sold for £85, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ A Minichamps World Champion F1 Williams Set 1/43 Scale. Excellent condition in great display box. **Sold for £100, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ Matchbox Superfast MB39 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow CHINESE INTERNAL MARKET ISSUE. Mint in Excellent Factory Sealed Blister Pack. **Sold for £170, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 51b Citroen SM. Excellent unboxed with a few tiny chips to roof & tailgate. **Sold for £2,900, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 51b Citroen SM - RARE MADE IN BRAZIL ISSUE.** Excellent Plus unboxed with some minor marks to hood & roof. **Sold for £140, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin - A boxed HO gauge 3 rail Zeppelin Rail Car # 3077.** The model appears Mint in a Good box. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Piko - A boxed HO gauge 3 rail Taurus electric locomotive # 57213.** The model appears Mint in a Very Good box. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, November**



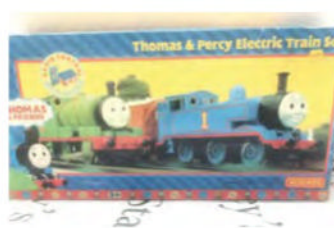
♣ **A HORNBY DUBLO OO gauge 2-rail 2245 Class AL1 electric locomotive.** in original box with original insert, instructions, inspection tag and oil bottle - Very Good in Good box. **Sold for £280, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 55d Ford Cortina Mark IV RARE CHINESE INTERNAL MARKET ISSUE.** Mint, complete with a Mint recent issue REPLICA Collectors Box in the style of the unreleased 1980's BP Promotional models. Superb example of this very rare model! **Sold for £420, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin - A boxed HO gauge 2-10-0 steam locomotive number 44690 # 3047.** The model appears in Very Good condition in a Fair box with storage wear. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **A Boxed Hornby OO Gauge Thomas And Percy Set.** No Track Or Transformer. Good condition. **Sold for £60, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



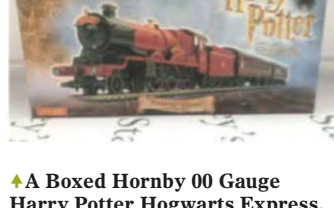
♣ **A HORNBY OO gauge R3671 'Peppercorn 2-6-0 K1 class Freight Pack' train pack.** Appears unused, excellent in excellent box. **Sold for £75, Excalibur Auctions, November**



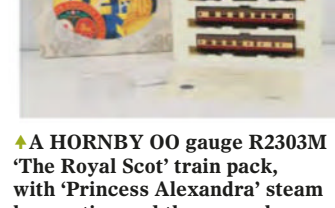
♣ **Matchbox Superfast 59c Planet Scout.** Excellent (base does not sit flush with body & chip to chrome plated roof panel), in Good Box. **Sold for £130, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin - A boxed HO gauge 4-6-0 3 rail steam locomotive number 3673 # 3092.** The model appears in Very Good condition in a Good box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **A Boxed Hornby OO Gauge Harry Potter Hogwarts Express.** Excellent condition in good box. **Sold for £60, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



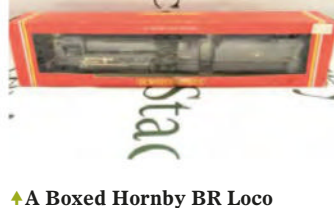
♣ **A HORNBY OO gauge R2303M 'The Royal Scot' train pack,** with 'Princess Alexandra' steam locomotive and three coaches. Excellent in very good box. **Sold for £70, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 66c Ford Transit Pick-up Truck.** Excellent Plus unboxed with some old elastic band residue to left hand side of dropside body. This is the first time we have come across this model with a semi-translucent interior. **Sold for £280, Oberon Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin - A boxed HO Digital 3 rail 4-6-2 Bavarian State steam locomotive # 33186.** The model appears Mint in a Very Good box with instructions. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **A Boxed Hornby BR Loco The Flying Scotsman 1961-1963 #R.078.** Excellent condition in good box. **Sold for £30, Stacey's Auctioneers and Valuers, November**



♣ **A HORNBY OO gauge R182 Thomas the Tank Engine series 'Percy Electric train set'.** original 1985 issue, unused, still factory shrinkwrapped, scarce in this condition - excellent in Very good box. **Sold for £100, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin - A boxed HO Digital 3 rail electric locomotive # 3422.** The model appears Mint in a Very Good box with instructions. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **A HORNBY DUBLO OO gauge 2-rail 2245 Class AL1 electric locomotive.** in original box with original insert - Very Good in Good box. **Sold for £220, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ **A BACHMANN OO gauge 32-515A Derby Lightweight 2-car DMU in BR green livery.** Excellent in very good box. **Sold for £75, Excalibur Auctions, November**

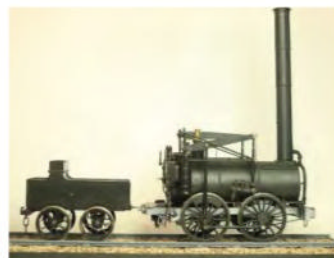




♣ A BACHMANN OO gauge 31-326 Class 105 2-car DMU in BR green with speed whiskers. Very good in a very good box. **Sold for £75, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ A HATTTONS OO gauge Class 66 diesel loco in BR large logo blue (GBRf) livery 'British Rail 1948-1997'. DCC sound fitted, lightly weathered to the roof exhausts by previous owner - Excellent in Excellent box. **Sold for £110, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ Large scale all metal scratchbuilt live steam 5" gauge 'Agenoria' early locomotive model as built by well respected model engineer Don Bowerman. the model is exquisitely detailed and in excellent overall condition although there is paint chipping. **Sold for £3,200, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



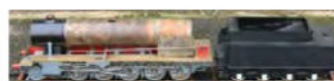
♣ Hornby OO gauge R2684 LNER Class A4 4468 'Mallard' electric steam locomotive model. 70th Anniversary 1938-2008 Steam Traction World Speed Record, model in near mint condition, 1 small tender part detached but undamaged. **Sold for £42, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ A HORNBY OO gauge R3087 'BR Pull-Push' train pack. comprising an M7 class steam loco and pair of pull-push coaches in BR livery - excellent in Very good box. **Sold for £80, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ HORNBY OO gauge R3202 Class A3 steam locomotive 'Flying Scotsman' in BR green (weathered) livery. National Railway Museum Limited Edition - Excellent in Very Good box. **Sold for £110, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ Partially built 5" gauge live steam Class 9F 2-10-0 Austerity locomotive model. complete with partial plans, overall length with tender in place approx 184.5cm. **Sold for £1,600, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ Boxed Hornby R2688 OO gauge Class A4 4498 'Sir Nigel Gresley' 70th Anniversary 2008 limited edition electric steam locomotive model. in excellent overall condition, would be considerably better but for left side cab hinged panel missing. **Sold for £75, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ A HORNBY OO gauge Marks & Spencer limited edition 'The Night Scot' train set. appears unused and complete - excellent in Very good box. **Sold for £80, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ A DAPOL OO gauge class 52 Western diesel locomotive. in BR green numbered D1002 'Western Explorer' - excellent in very good box. **Sold for £80, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ Large scale all metal live steam 3.5" gauge LBSC Tich locomotive model 'Emma' as built by respected model engineer Don Bowerman in 1973. well detailed and with sprung buffers, some paint chipping. **Sold for £740, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ Hornby OO gauge R1091 'Marks & Spencer' Limited Edition "The Royal Train" set. still sealed, boxed like NEW. **Sold for £140, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ A HORNBY OO gauge R2888M 'The Flying Scotsman' train pack. comprising Class A4 steam locomotive 'Kingfisher' and 3x LNER teak coaches - Excellent in Very Good box. **Sold for £80, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ HORNBY OO gauge R3750 'Belmond British Pullman' train pack. comprising class 67 diesel locomotive and 3 x Pullman cars in matching livery - very good in Very good box. **Sold for £130, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ Large scale all metal live steam Minnie traction engine model 'Moth' in lined green livery. the model is exquisitely detailed and in excellent condition, no boiler certificate. **Sold for £1,900, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ Hornby - A boxed Hornby O gauge clockwork Mixed Goods Set No. # 2. This set appears in unusually Good condition with signs of only light use, the desirable locomotive is fully working and has its key, even the box is still in Good condition. **Sold for £280, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ A HORNBY R2194 'The Atlantic Coast Express' Train Pack. comprising Merchant Navy Class loco and coaches - Very Good in Good box. **Sold for £120, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ HORNBY DUBLO OO gauge 3235 3-rail West Country Class steam locomotive. in BR green 'Dorchester' - Very Good in Good box. **Sold for £110, Excalibur Auctions, November**



♣ Large scale all metal 3.5" gauge live steam LNER Thompson Class B1 4-6-0 8301 'Springbok' locomotive model and tender. the model would however make for a stunning static display as is, some fairly extensive paint chipping and please note front bogey loose. **Sold for £2,000, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ **Spectrum - Bachmann - A boxed ON30 gauge 2-6-0 black painted unlettered locomotive # 25299.** The model appears dusty and shows signs of use, it appears in Good condition overall. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Bachmann Branchline 31-705 Limited Edition 9ct Gold series Class B1 4-6-0 No.1306 "Mayflower" in LNER green.** Locomotive Near Mint, case Good with handling wear. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Bachmann 32-850A BR Standard Class 9F 2-10-0 locomotive No.92220, 'Evening Star', in BR green with late crest.** Excellent condition with minor handling wear, box Fair. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Bachmann Class 47 diesel locomotive No. 47475 Trans-Pennine in BR blue and grey livery.** Excellent condition, box Good. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Bachmann Class 47 diesel locomotive No. 47522 Doncaster Enterprise in BR apple green livery.** Excellent condition, box Good. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November**



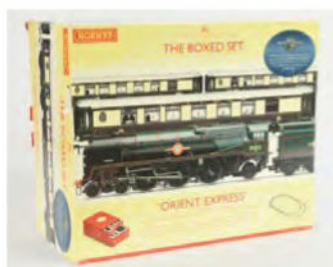
♣ **Bachmann Class 37/7 diesel locomotive No. 37884, 'Europhoenix', in silver, red and grey livery.** Excellent condition, box Good. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Bachmann Class 66 diesel locomotive No. 66411, 'Eddie the Engine', in Stobart Rail livery.** Excellent condition, box Good. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Hornby (China) R3300 (Limited Edition) "Sir Winston Churchill's Funeral Train" Pack.** Near Mint to Mint in generally Near Mint picture box. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Hornby (China) R1038 "Orient Express" Boxed Train Set.** Condition is Near Mint in Excellent Plus to Near Mint draw set and generally Good Plus outer box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Hornby Railroad OO Gauge R3171 LNER Class P2 2-8-2 No. 2002 Cock O, 'The North' in green livery with lined detail and matching LNER tender.** Appears Near Mint to Mint in original inner tray. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November**



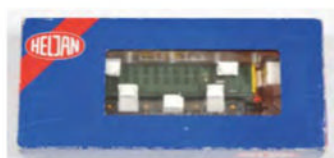
♣ **Hornby OO gauge electric locomotive R3580, Class 87 No. 87035 "Robert Burns" in BR Rail Blue livery with full yellow ends.** Model appears in excellent condition, lightly handled; box good with wear. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Hornby OO gauge diesel-electric locomotive R3747, GBRf Class 66 Co-Co No. 66779, 'Evening Star', in green GBRf livery with orange lining and nameplates.** Model appears excellent, lightly handled; box Good with marks. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Hornby R3829 Eurostar, 'The Beatles Yellow Submarine', Train Pack.** Condition Near Mint, box Excellent. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Heljan Class 16 diesel locomotive No. D8407 in BR green with full yellow ends.** Excellent condition, box Good. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Heljan Class 128 Parcels DMU No. M55993 in BR blue livery.** Mint condition, box Good. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Dapol Class 121 single-car DMU No. 55020 in Chiltern Railways blue livery.** Excellent condition, box Good. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Golden Age Models (Korean Brass) OO Gauge BR Green 4-6-2 Gresley A4 No. 60022 "Mallard" fitted with DCC Sound.** Good Plus to Excellent in Good box. **Sold for £540, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin Z Gauge Mini-club insider 81436 - Class 61 Streamlined Tank Loco No.61 001 together with 4 x Passenger Coaches** all finished in cream and mauve. Condition is Excellent Plus to Near Mint in an Excellent Plus box. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale Ref. 37097 2-10-2 Deutsche Bundesbahn (Epoch III) BR 85 Class Locomotive No. 85 003 with DCC Sound Fitted.** Condition is Excellent in Good Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale Ref. 39053 4-6-4 Deutsche Reichsbahn Red (Epoch II) DRG 05 Class Locomotive No. 05 003 with Streamline Casing, Front Cab, DCC Sound Fitted.** Condition is Excellent in Good Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale**
Ref. 39392 2-8-2 Deutsche
Reichsbahn (Epoch II) DRG Class
39 Locomotive with DCC Sound.
Condition is Excellent in Good
Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for**
£80, Vectis Auctions, November



♣ **Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale** Ref.
39242 4-8-2 Deutsche Bundesbahn
(Epoch III) BR 45 Class
Locomotive with DCC Sound.
Condition is Excellent in Good
Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for**
£150, Vectis Auctions, November



♣ **Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale**
Ref. 37450 2-10-2 Deutsche
Bundesbahn (Epoch III) BR
45 Class Locomotive with DCC
Sound. Condition is Excellent in
Good Plus box and outer sleeve.
Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions,
November



♣ **Marklin 2-Rail DC HO Scale**
Ref. 39550 4-8-2 (Epoch II) Class
13 (241-A) Locomotive No. 241-
004 with DCC Sound & Smoke.
Condition is Excellent Plus in
Good box and outer sleeve.
Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions,
November



♣ **Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale**
Ref. 39968 4-6-2 BR Green (Epoch
IV) Gresley A3 No. 60203 "Flying
Scotsman" with DCC Sound
and Smoke Generator Fitted.
Condition is Excellent in Good
Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for**
£280, Vectis Auctions, November



♣ **KMT (Japanese Brass) HO**
Scale group of US Outline F-3 A
& B Diesel Units in undercoated
Brass. Conditions Excellent with
some age related tarnishing in
Good to Good Plus boxes. **Sold for**
£90, Vectis Auctions, November



♣ **Star Wars - Kenner - A vintage**
carded Kenner Star Wars
'Princess Leia Organa in Combat
Poncho' 3-æ" action figure on
unpunched ROTJ 79A card. The
figure appears to be in Mint
condition, in Good but yellow
bubble pack, without creases or
cracks which appears resealed.
Sold for £130, British Toy Auctions,
November



♣ **Star Wars - Palitoy - A vintage**
carded Palitoy Star Wars 'Princess
Leia Organa in Boushh Disguise'
3-æ" action figure on punched
Palitoy ROTJ 65B card. The figure
appears to be in Mint condition,
in Good but lightly yellow bubble
pack, without creases or cracks.
Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions,
November



♣ **A Steiff, 'Millenium Band'.**
five teddy bears on a stage
with instruments and musical
mechanism playing 'When the
Saints Go Marching In'. **Sold for**
£100, Ewbank's, November



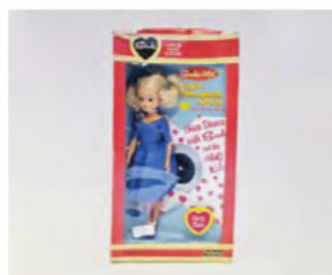
♣ **A Steiff, Replica, 'Teddy Clown**
1926. 70cm (pink) with certificate
and white ear tag numbered
00798, in original box. **Sold for**
£100, Ewbank's, November



♣ **Captain Scarlet Gerry Anderson**
Robert Harrop a Limited
Edition resin figure / statue CS04
'Spectrum Saloon Car'. Statue
appears mint, with no damage.
Boxed. Limited Edition. **Sold for**
£80, Ewbank's, November



♣ **A Boxed Unbuilt Denys Fisher**
Six Million Dollar Man 'Bionic
Bustout' Snap Together Plastic
Model Kit. appears largely
complete and in good condition.
Sold for £35, Richard Winterton
Auctioneers, November



♣ **Sindy Party Time by Pedigree.**
blonde with disco dance 45rpm
record, in box. **Sold for £85,**
Cotswold Auction Company,
November



♣ **Sindy Goes West by Pedigree.**
boxed with accessories and
American price label. **Sold for**
£320, Cotswold Auction Company,
November



♣ **Sindy Marx 1000 posing doll.**
with floral dress, with box.
Sold for £75, Cotswold Auction
Company, November



♣ **Allan Barbie Mattel 'He's Ken's**
Buddy'. wearing multicoloured
striped short sleeved shirt and
blue shorts, boxed. **Sold for £80,**
Cotswold Auction Company,
November



♣ **Barbie Mattel brunette ponytail**
doll. spotted black dress with
shoes and stand, with box. **Sold for**
£150, Cotswold Auction Company,
November



♣ **Francie** by Mattel. Barbie's Modern Cousin, brunette wearing green floral short dress and sandals, with box. *Sold for £140, Cotswold Auction Company, November*



♣ **Mattel Barbie walking Jamie** doll. circa early 1970's, with blonde hair and brown hairs, wearing a yellow, orange and pink dress. *Sold for £90, Cotswold Auction Company, November*



♣ **Action Man - Hasbro - Palitoy** - A boxed Hasbro / Palitoy Action Man 40th Anniversary / reproduction 'Action Man Combat' uniform and accessory set. The uniform set appears top be in Mint condition. *Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ **Hasbro Transformers** Revenge of the Fallen Mindwipe Decepticon. Condition sealed good plus to excellent. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Barbie with Growin' Pretty Hair** by Mattel. hair that grows and grows, stock no.1144, box with braids and clips and other accessories, in box. *Sold for £200, Cotswold Auction Company, November*



♣ **Steffi Somersault Teddy** replica Bear. gold mohair bear, white tag 406553, Limited edition 02560 of 5000. *Sold for £30, Cotswold Auction Company, November*



♣ **Action Man - Hasbro - Palitoy** - A boxed Hasbro / Palitoy Action Man 40th Anniversary / reproduction 'Action Man Famous Football Clubs - Celtic' kit and accessory set. The set appears top be in Mint condition. *Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ **Hot Toys Sideshow Thor** Ragnarok Gladiator (Chris Hemsworth) 1/6 Figure MMS 444. Condition excellent to excellent plus. *Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Sindy' Lovely Lively** hair care set. with auburn hair, cream jumper with yellow, orange and pink chequered skirt and hair accessories, boxed. *Sold for £160, Cotswold Auction Company, November*



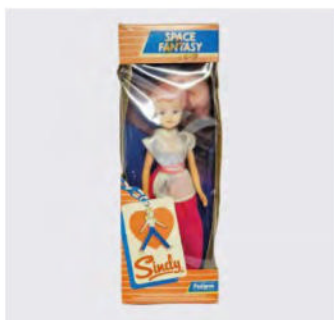
♣ **Hasbro - Action Man** - A boxed Limited Edition 1966 World Cup Action Man by Hasbro. overall the figure appears to be in Mint condition. *Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ **Subbuteo** - A boxed vintage 1971-72 Subbuteo 'Football Express' Five-a-Side set. The set shows signs of age and play. *Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ **Hot Toys Sideshow Guardians of the Galaxy Rocket & Groot** Gladiator 1/6 Figure MMS254. Condition excellent to excellent plus, sealed. *Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Sindy Space Fantasy** doll. no.42012, with pink hair, silver top and pink skirt, in box. *Sold for £130, Cotswold Auction Company, November*



♣ **Topps** - A set of vintage Topps 'Star Wars: Return of the Jedi' series 2 wax pack trading cards. appear to be in Excellent condition, contained within Excellent trading card acrylic case. *Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November*



♣ **Hasbro Star Wars Episode I** Darth Maul action figure with double-bladed lightsaber, carded with CommTech chip, signed by Ray Park. Condition generally Good Plus. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **A Doctor Who 25th Anniversary** limited edition commemorative diorama playset by Dapol. condition is generally Good to Good Plus, within Good box. *Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **McFarlane Terminator 3** Rise of the Machines 12 inch T-850 figurine. Condition packaging fair to good window at bottom has come detached, sealed figure excellent to excellent plus. *Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, November*



♣ **Mattel Space 1999 Commander Koenig 9 inch figure on unpunched cardback.** Condition fair to good, the bubble has a slight crack in front and a hole in the top left corner, with a split at bottom, the card is slightly creased bottom right. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **The Hulk Collectors Statuette by Cards Inc.** Condition Good Plus to Excellent, within Good packaging. **Sold for £35, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Kenner Star Wars vintage 3.75 inch action figure Yoda (Brown Snake).** Condition complete excellent to excellent plus. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November**



♣ **Vintage tinplate clockwork mechanical dockyard crane model.** The model is in full working order but would benefit from a service. **Sold for £85, Ryedale Auctioneers, November**



♣ **Gunthermann tinplate Bonzo on three wheel scooter.** Clockwork mechanism works when wound. **Sold for £170, Cotswold Auction Company, November**



♣ **Tinplate clockwork toy.** featuring cat chasing a mouse in a dome on wheels (one missing) with integral key. **Sold for £30, Cotswold Auction Company, November**



♣ **Japanese Horikawa tinplate Rotate-O-Matic Super Astronaut robot.** battery operated (no box). **Sold for £55, Cotswold Auction Company, November**



♣ **Ha Ha Toy boxed tinplate.** clockwork Mechanical Planet Robot. **Sold for £55, Cotswold Auction Company, November**



♣ **Muller & Kadeder - A rare early tinplate motorcycle by Muller & Kadeder with a working flywheel motor.** appears in Very Good condition overall, would benefit from some careful cleaning. **Sold for £1,300, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **CKO - Kellerman - A scarce tinplate Flying Boat with flywheel motor marked CKO on the left side.** appears in Fair to Good condition overall, the tabs have broken off the left side wing stays so they are loose and the cellophane propeller is split. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Gebruder Einfalt - A boxed pre war clockwork tinplate Cock-Fight toy by Gebruder Einfalt.** The model appears in Very Good condition overall, the box is in poor condition but the label is intact. **Sold for £150, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Orobr - A rare tinplate clockwork Steam Roller made by Orobr in Germany.** The model would benefit from careful cleaning and appears in Very Good condition overall. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Triang Express tinplate train.** together with a vintage teddy bear. **Sold for £25, Cotswold Auction Company, November**



♣ **Frog - A boxed clockwork tinplate Puss Moth Monoplane by Frog.** It appears little used if ever and is in Very Good condition. **Sold for £140, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Essdee - A boxed clockwork tinplate crawler tractor.** appears in Excellent overall condition with working mechanism, the rubber tracks are still intact. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Tinplate - A clockwork tinplate passenger ship.** appears in Good condition. It would benefit from some cleaning. **Sold for £95, British Toy Auctions, November**



♣ **Bing - A large tinplate clockwork Bing Touring Car with driver.** Excellent condition overall with key and working motor. It would benefit from some careful cleaning. **Sold for £700, British Toy Auctions, November**



eBuys

From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



Item: Corgi 1/32 Spitfire Mk1a AA33905
Condition: Sights & Sounds All Working Superb And Rare.
Sold for: £223.00 (10 bids)



Item: Cult Scale 1:18 Rover 110 P4
Condition: in Green and White 1962, excellent condition.
Sold for: £103.77 (16 bids)



Item: 1:18 Hot Wheels Elite 1966 Batmobile TV Series Limited Edition
Condition: Near mint in an excellent box.
Sold for: £120.30 (2 bids)



Item: Tekno Like Wsi Irish Bulk Powder Tank In The Livery Of Daire Maher
Condition: Excellent condition, unboxed, no marks or appearance of age-related wear.
Sold for: £160.00 (5 bids)



Item: Corgi 1:72 AA39915 B-17 Flying Fortress "Ye Olde Pub" & BF109G-6 Franz Stigler
Condition: Near mint condition in an excellent box - appears untouched.
Sold for: £360.20 (24 bids)



Item: Corgi Toys 267 Batmobile - Vintage Batman Model Toy Car Original Mint Diecast
Condition: Excellent condition, no marks or appearance of age-related wear.
Sold for: £959.89 (25 bids)



Item: Bombardier Aventura Class 345 Elizabeth Line Train
Condition: Excellent condition in an excellent display case, could do with a clean.
Sold for: £304.20 (20 bids)



Item: Maserati 300S 1956 by CMC 1:18
Condition: Comes with a certificate of authentication, excellent condition, few marks and signs of age.
Sold for: £414.68 (1 bid)



Item: Matchbox Gift Set, G10 Fire Station Set, Original
Condition: Good condition, clear signs of age wear, box is fair, slightly damaged.
Sold for: £500 (58 bids)



Item: Spot-on Triang Austin 7, 211
Condition: Good condition, clear signs of age wear and tear, box is weathered.
Sold for: £797.40 (9 bids)



Item: Vintage Corgi 313 Ford Cortina GXL
Condition: good condition, signs of wear and tear due to age.
Sold for: £820.00 (47 bids)



Item: Tri-Ang Magic MG Midget Racing Car
Condition: Fair condition, lots of rust and paint chipped due to age, unsure if it works.
Sold for: £340.00 (36 bids)



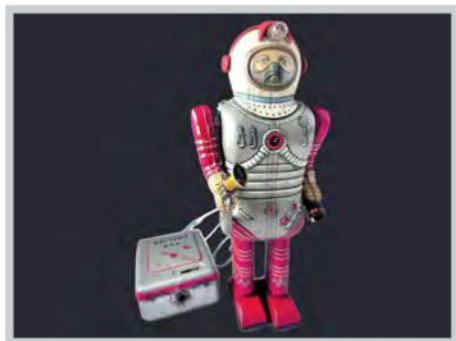
Item: Sutcliffe Grenville Battleship / Warship / Boat - Tinplate - Clockwork
Condition: A good clean example, little used, with restorable original box.
Sold for: £410.20 (8 bids)



Item: 1930's Marklin Clockwork Tinplate - Standard Oil Tanker Truck - Restoration
Condition: In need of restoration Spring gone but still Winds a little and motor works. No side door.
Sold for: £320.00 (2 bids)



Item: Distler Germany Vintage 1950's Tinplate Porsche Elektro Matic 7500
Condition: Good condition, very visible rust to body, very rare example.
Sold for: £466.00 (29 bids)



Item: Nomura Space Commander Robot Toy
Condition: Excellent condition, visible signs of age wear and tear.
Sold for: £519.13 (15 bids)



Item: Schuco Mohair Bear on Scooter
Condition: Very good condition considering age, would benefit from a deep clean.
Sold for: £298.34 (2 bids)



Item: Lone Star Stingray Toy Gun Vintage 1960s
Condition: Good condition in a fair box, signs of age to the box.
Sold for: £618.70 (2 bids)



Item: Rare Vintage Century 21 Toys 'Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle' SPV Boxed Gerry Anderson
Condition: Great condition in a good box.
Sold for: £371.00 (5 bids)



Item: Vintage Tin Friction Toy Usagiya Rabbit Scooter Motorcycle Japan W Driver
Condition: Good condition, visible signs of age.
Sold for: £443.35 (64 bids)



Item: Mattel Hot Wheels Redline Custom Firebird Pink Vintage Toy Car Collectors Badge
Condition: Preowned, unboxed but very good.
Sold for: £1,046.06 (22 bids)



1

The 1:64 diecast space is highly competitive at the moment — and now Majorette enters the fray with its new 1:64

Collection. Traditionally, Majorette has rubbed shoulders with leading brands such as Siku and Mattel's Hot Wheels and Matchbox and their mainline/basic ranges, but has carved a niche by sticking with real-life licensed castings throughout its Street Cars and Premium line-ups.

With six models representing the decades from the 1950s through to the 2000s, each vehicle features a die-cast body, real rubber tyres and clear light lenses. Add quality paint finishes and the trademark Majorette suspension — tramline bars within the chassis running over the axles — and it's clear that considerable thought has gone into the details.

Presentation is another strong point: the stackable display boxes create an instant showcase. But how do they stack up against the established players? We took some of the Wave 1 castings and compared them with similar models from contemporaries such as Tomica Limited Vintage (TLV), Kyosho, Inno64 and GreenLight to see how they measure up in this competitive space.

PORSCHE 930 TURBO

The definitive Porsche that became the Teutonic pin-up on many a youth's wall when launched. We put the Majorette version up against Kyosho's 930, and it is nearly impossible to tell the difference. There are subtle distinctions between

Scaling up

Stepping into the 1:64 Premium arena for the first time, Majorette presents a confident lineup of castings. Can it truly compete with the big names?

the two — Majorette's replication of the Fuchs wheels seems to edge it slightly, sitting fuller within the wheel arches and bringing the imposing Turbo characteristics to the parked stance. However, the tampo-printed "Porsche" logo, embossed rear light bar and exterior trim all hit the mark for both models. In this instance, the Majorette casting matches Kyosho remarkably well despite the difference in price point.

HONDA NSX-R GT

Built to satisfy Super GT homologation rules rather than showroom demand, the ultra-rare NSX-R GT took Honda's razor-edged Type R approach to the extreme — with only five rumoured to exist, it remains one of the most elusive unicorns in the performance car world. The Majorette version holds its ground convincingly here with poise and finesse rivalling TLV's yellow standard version. Whilst the Inno64 model may edge ahead with its superbly detailed interior, the Majorette version poses with aplomb, and the screwed-in metal base offers a straightforward route to customisation. Crucially, the Inno64 model is almost

double the price. Majorette more than holds its own in such company and competition.

AMERICAN MADE

The 1:64 US passenger car scene is dominated by the likes of Auto World, GreenLight, Johnny Lightning and M2 Machines. GreenLight's Monte Carlo SS is a heavyweight (literally) in this arena, but Majorette's first US effort — the Z28 Camaro — gives a good account of itself. The hallmark Majorette suspension means that there is some give in the model, so it can be rolled easily — not that you'd necessarily want to do that, of course. While it may not feel as robust as GreenLight's offering, these are not mainline models — they're designed for display. It looks the part, feels well finished and secures a deserved seat at the table.

For collectors entering the 1:64 scale realm, the Majorette range is a fantastic introduction to premium miniature die-cast and arguably more accessible than the online store-led procurement of the more expensive items.

Granted, you don't get the microscopic



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1. Majorette's Camaro gives a good account of itself going head-to-head against Greenlight's Monte Carlo SS.

2. Majorette's attempt at detail is purposeful and deliberate. Beautifully done, this brings proper authenticity at the price point.

3. The front end of Majorette's 930 Turbo continues the high standards within this range and captures Ernst Fuhrmann's design brief.

levels of detail that a £30-plus model can command, but these castings more than hold their own against the competition, delivering sharp detail at a genuinely affordable price. Majorette deserves plaudits for such a bold move.

With Waves 2 and 3 already teased on social media — including new additions such as the 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder, 1975 BMW 3.0 CSL, 1985 Toyota Hilux SR5 Pickup (yes, the one Marty McFly drove in *Back to the Future*, albeit unlicensed) and 1965 Ford GT40 Mk1, plus a selection of recolours — this neat series really bodes well for the future. Thoroughly recommended. ■

4. There is very little between Kyosho and Majorette's 930; the latter presents exceptional value for money along with superb attention to detail.



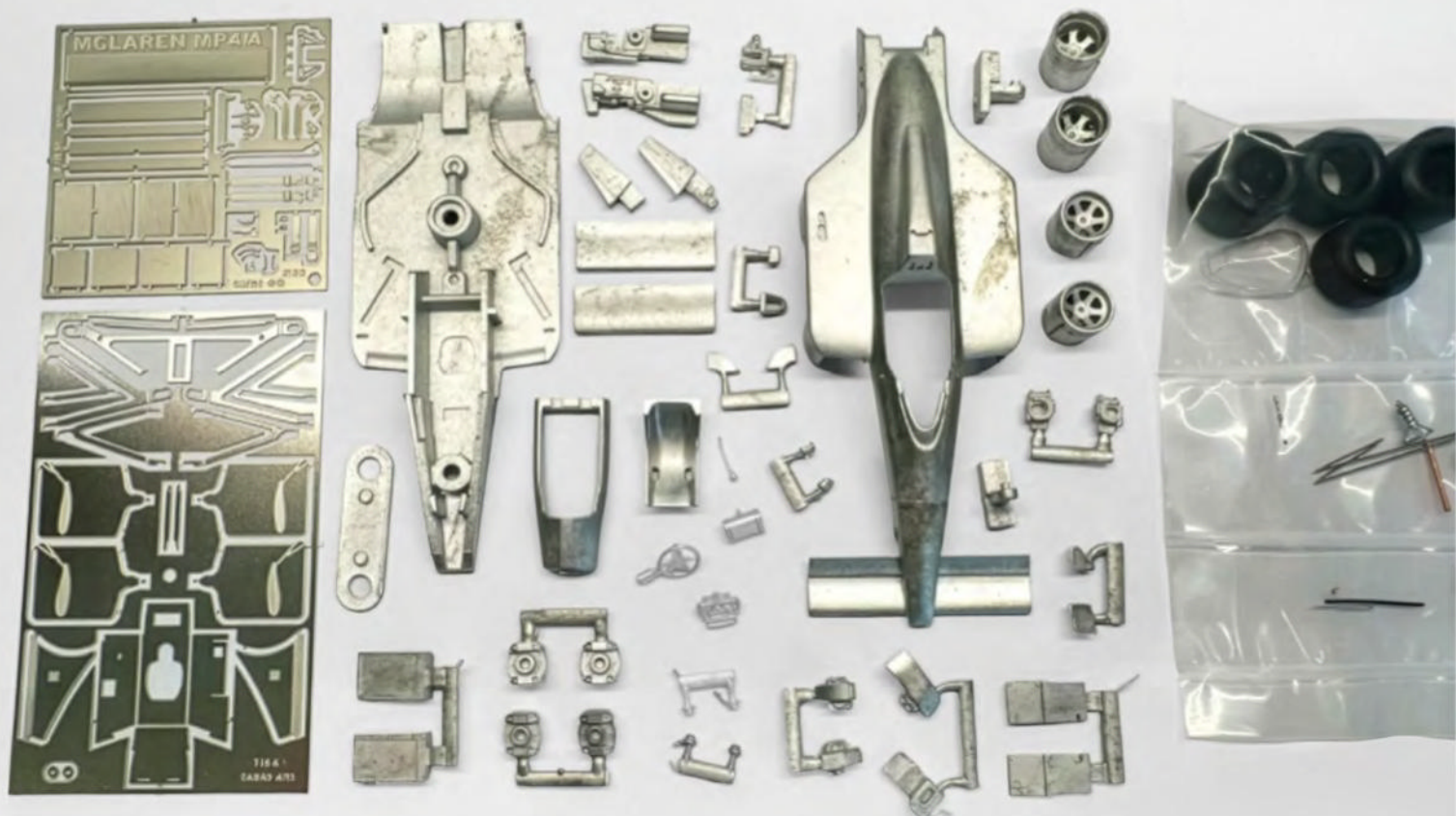
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5. David v Goliath - at nearly three times the price, Inno64's NSX-R GT sets the benchmark but is equally matched by Majorette's incoming protagonist.



6

6. The rear haunch of Majorette's NSX-R GT looks better than Inno64's version. There is little between the established name and the newcomer in comparison.



With Tecnomodel, we're back to resin again as the build basis – but these miniatures, available in three scales (namely 1/12, 1/18 and 1/43) merit inclusion in my index, I feel, because they are simply stunning. Handbuilt and produced in limited numbers, they are certainly not for the impecunious. If F1 is what lights your candle, then this range will be the one to drool over.

Techart is another resin contender, this time focussed on Porsche models which are, like the real thing, subject to modification. Thus, if you like your models to be a tad, shall we say, radical, then this line of 1/43 models might be worthy of investigation. But back to diecast...

TAKING TO THE TRACK

Keen on racing and circuit cars of all types? Then take a look at the European company Tameo, which should feature on your shopping list. The novelty in this particular range stems from the fact that models are available in kit format. (I assume that kit builders are still out there, for in this day and age of instant gratification, there are probably fewer around with the necessary skills to assemble kits. Whatever the case, Tameo must have done their market research, one assumes).

The kits are truly wondrous, comprising many parts, some minute, with photo-etching providing the necessary fine detail

A-Z of collecting

The letter T is almost concluded this issue, as **Alwyn Brice** continues his diecast lexicon.

where required. Comprehensive decals are also provided, giving the modeller everything he (or she) requires to come up with a superb recreation of the real thing. Ferrari as a marque tends to dominate the proceedings but other car makers are also in the catalogue, such as Alfa Romeo, Ligier and Matra.

The Italian company, which does everything in house, dates back to 1983 and has carved a useful niche in the 1/43 market with its products, proving, perhaps, that the 1/43 market isn't exclusively the domain of Far Eastern mass-produced miniatures.

TOP GUN?

Top Marques is another Italian resin/diecast manufacturer, but one which has taken up the gauntlet of quality, particularly in the larger scales. Whilst initial design work is executed in Italy, a facility in China comes into the frame for the final assembly

operation. That said, anyone collecting in 1/18 or 1/12 is going to be hooked, because the company's product line is simply mouth-watering.

Le Mans, the world of rallying, so-called supercars and even concept cars are all available from the company, which is quite young, having been founded just over eight years ago. Once again, there is an emphasis on Italian vehicle manufacturers but I feel that few are going to worry about this narrow approach, because there are some true delights in its range.

That ultimate wedge, the Lancia Stratos Zero concept car, from 1970, would be first on my list; then again there's the fabulous Lamborghini Miura, as well as the beautiful Ferrari P330 in spider format. Top Marques travels back to the 1950s in the shape of a neat little Ferrari but also furnishes up-to-date vehicles, such as Lamborghini's Huracan.

Quality, as mentioned, is not going to disappoint – but then the product prices reflect the company's attention to detail, since they range from £100 or so for the

ABOVE If you're brave (and skilful) enough, a Tameo kit might be right up your street



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1/43 models to over £400 for the bigger examples. However, most models seem to have limited runs; as supermarkets are fond of saying, "Once they're gone, they're gone..."

MUD AND THUD

Portugal-based Trofeu offers a line of 1/43 scale diecast vehicle under the aegis of Replicar. The company began production in 1989, its first model being that of the fearsome Ford Sierra Cosworth decked out in 1987 RAC Rally trim. Rally cars are really the company's stock in trade here, the bright liveries contrasting well with the standard road car equivalent that are also entertained.

Thus fans of the likes of Subaru, Mitsubishi, Audi, BMW, Fiat and other makes that achieved fame on the rally circuits are well catered for by this manufacturer. Prices are relatively modest, albeit not pocket money cheap; quality overall is acceptable although paintwork



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1. TopSpeed's Bugatti W16 in yellow. Well, it's not a car for wallflowers, after all

2. Camel racing anyone? Distinctive livery evident on this Trofeu Audi Quattro

3. Ford's doughty Escort from the 1970s appeared in countless rallies; this Trofeu model in bright blue really stands out

4. Large scale (1/12) Ducati Panigale V4S motorcycle from True Scale Miniatures exhibits plenty of detail

5. Stunning Ferrari 275 GTB/C in competition trim supplied from Tameo

6. A Fiat 500 Abarth, with all the go-faster extras, from TopSpeed

application around the window frames on some models is less than perfect.

AT TOPSPEED...

TopSpeed Models lists over 20 different car makes on its website – and it seems that more are in preparation. Okay, so we're not talking 100% diecast here (although initial production was), but it's another maker that I feel merits brief inclusion. A brand name of True Scale Miniatures, it's certainly bang up to date in terms of its model range: Lotus' Emira, Aston Martin's Valkyrie and the outrageous McLaren Senna (especially outrageous in metallic orange) are all to be found.

Big is the byword here: 1/18 allows for plenty of detail and whilst models don't feature opening parts, there's a good price/quality equation evident here.

TRUE TO SCALE

Which brings us on to the main company, True Scale Miniatures. Offering 1/43 as well as 1/18, this enterprise fields cars of all types of vehicle (race, road and rally) and motorcycles, alongside large scale driver figurines and even race helmets.

Of Taiwanese origins, and dating back to 2006, the company's range is prodigious although runs seem to be limited. The smaller models sell for over £100, with the bigger siblings commensurately more expensive in the £200 bracket. For the ultimate 1/12, you'll need to double that and add a bit. That said, there's a lot of work goes into the more decorative liveries on the track cars; and if your bent lies in odd colourways, then its Lamborghini Huracan Sterrato in camouflage (!) will certainly be to your taste. ■



Once again, I've been photographing a few pieces from my modest Matchbox collection. Their bold, lively colours are a big part of their charm; even after years of enthusiastic play, those vibrant hues still shine through the inevitable wear and tear, and this month, I've focused on capturing that colour in all its glory, working to make every shade really pop.

To make the models' colours really stand out, I've used a simple white (well very light grey) background, keeping the lighting subtle, which hopefully keeps distracting strong shadows to a minimum.

While the strongest (yet still subtle) lighting was from above, I also used a small hand torch (with a piece of paper over the bulb to diffuse the light) to provide a bit of lighting from the front to heighten the colour of the paintwork. This took a bit of trial and error but tended to work out quite well in the end. The idea of diffusing the light was really to help me to avoid any harsh, distracting, shadows and reflections.

ABOVE, ABOVE RIGHT, & BELOW Matchbox Numbers 1 & 2, the Mercedes Truck and Trailer, Superfast Number 44, the Refrigerator Truck, and Superfast Number 53, the CJG Jeep; three fantastic colour combinations



Making your Matchbox pop

Mike, continues his quest to make photos of his tiny collection using just a cheap mobile phone

THEY'RE QUITE SMALL

If you're shooting with a phone, the macro setting is sometimes the best way to shoot small objects. Designed for extremely close focusing, it lets you explore the miniature world of diecast and scale models with surprising clarity, turning subtle features into standout visuals. Macro mode brings out details that standard shots (and the naked eye) often miss: wheel textures, badges, interiors, and paint finishes (including blemishes!) all appear sharper and more defined.

CREATE CINEMATIC DEPTH

Move in close enough and the background starts to melt into a soft blur. This shallow depth of field isolates the model car and gives your photos a clean, professional look. You can even use this effect to show the front of your Matchbox vehicle in sharp focus, while the rear, just an inch or so away, takes on a faint blur. It's a dramatic effect that I quite like, and the photo of the Refrigerator Truck shows this up quite well. As with all things, practice makes perfect, and after a while you'll start to decide which effects show off your collection to its best effect. ■



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Matchbox cars made by Lesney Products in Hackney, East London were cast using a cheap zinc alloy (mazak, or zamak) and were generally painted with lead-free enamel paint. The diecast metal bodies were spray-painted with a couple of very thin coats while running along a conveyor belt and being spun at the same time. The enamel was then "stoved" (baked), giving it a relatively durable finish. The parts were then assembled and riveted together. Incidentally, the Matchbox factory was known for having a large percentage of female employees.

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John Leitch tells us about his tasty collection. "Even though I have more than 600 KitKat wrappers stored in five bulging folders, I've never pictured myself as a collector, certainly not one of any note... but hey, here I am.

I scour the shelves for new variant KitKat coverings; friends post wrappers from abroad, the deal being that they can either scoff the contents or hand them over untouched... and from time to time I check what novelty flavours they have dreamed up in Japan.

It kicked off in the 1980s. Having been made redundant from a job in Northumberland after 14 years, we'd landed up in Suffolk, and 18 months on from that, I'd settled down to writing my first novel.

That meant getting up before dawn on a Saturday morning when the kids were still fast asleep. There was one morning when things just fell into place.

My hero, a tennis player, was in a fix. He'd just landed at Heathrow, on a high from winning a big game in Paris and greeting him was Fleur, his girlfriend, and her two kids. They'd been held hostage in their own house, but despite being shot at, they had all escaped.

I pictured them all rolling westwards down the M4 motorway while being closely tracked, before finding a way to escape. But how do you manage that without being followed... the answer came out of the blue, so I dived into a KitKat to celebrate and found my brain coming up with something unexpected.

"Why don't you start collecting the KitKat wrappers?" said a voice in my head. "You got mugged by collecting stamps, but look, these would be for free, so it matters not a jot that they'll have no value, just collect them for the sake of it."

"What do you mean they'll be for free?"

"Well, a KitKat costs 14p and a first-class stamp is 17p, right? So buy a KitKat, open the wrapper carefully, get 14p of value-for-money by eating the chocolate, and that leaves you with the wrapper as a free gift, so to speak."



Your collection

Every collector has a story. Each month we feature one of our readers and the treasures that mean the most to them. Want to share yours? Email CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk

And so it all kicked off.

I soon got to see how some European countries branded KitKat wrappers in their own language, while others stick with English wording, but for too long, the crazy situation in Japan remained a complete mystery.

How on earth had it come from nowhere to capture such a sizeable chunk of the confectionery market? I had to delve.

The answer is primarily because of a phrasing coincidence. KitKat is pronounced "Kitto Katto", which sounds similar to the expression "Kitto Katsu", which in Japanese

means "you will surely win".

Due to KitKats' closeness in sound to this popular phrase, the brand becomes synonymously associated with good luck, and Japanese parents often gift KitKats to their children before a big test or exam as a good luck charm, telling them that they will surely win and do well on their exams.

Sales spike in January when the Japanese college entrance exams are held: most of the time, when students receive these KitKats, they aren't to be eaten, but rather to have as an amulet for a successful exam period.

If you want a good KitKat-flavoured read, then do please dive into my novel. It is called *Black Cloud, Red Sea* and it was written under the pen name of Arlinda Rotate... well, I mean, if that trick worked for John Le Carre, then I thought it might work for me too. ■



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>> Admission (16+) £5 per person, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY 2026
The Brentwood Centre, Doddington Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN.
10am - 2pm >> approx. 180 tables >> 6ft table £40
>> Admission (16+) £4 per person, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

SPALDING SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY 2026
Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET
10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Admission (16+) £3.50 per person, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY 2026
The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 1ST MARCH 2026
The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Admission (16+) £3.50, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

SPALDING SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026
Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET
10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Admission (16+) £3.50, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

For bookings and further information
please telephone Lorraine on **01522 880383**
Email: jandjfairs@gmail.com

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SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 9.45am - 1.15pm
DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILN BARN ROAD, DITTON, KENT, ME20 6AH

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RAYLEIGH, ESSEX
SUNDAY 8 MARCH 9.45am - 1.15pm
SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ

BROMLEY, KENT
SUNDAY 22 MARCH 9.45am - 1.15pm
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DITTON, KENT
SUNDAY 3 MAY 9.45am - 1.15pm
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RAYLEIGH, ESSEX
SUNDAY 7 JUNE 9.45am - 1.15pm
SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ

BROMLEY, KENT
SUNDAY 28 JUNE 9.45am - 1.15pm
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SUNDAY 12 JULY 9.45am - 1.15pm
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For further details please call Tony Oakes
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For more details please call:
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 39 • Admission: Adults £4.00, Children/Senior Citizens £3.00, Early Bird £7
 • Buy, sell and swap trains, model cars, buses and trucks, soldiers and more! • Free parking, 10 mins from Designer Outlet A19/A64 Junction, Bus 415

MUSSELBURGH SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY
MUSSELBURGH SPORTS CENTRE
 101 Newbigging, Musselburgh, EH21 7AS - 10.30am-3pm
 39 • Admission: Adults £4.00, Children/Senior Citizens £3.00, Early Bird £7
 • Buy, sell and swap trains, model cars, buses and trucks, soldiers and more! • Free parking, working exhibitions and cafe facilities

RAINTON SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
RAINTON ARENA
 Mercantile Road, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, NE10 5PH - 10.30am-3pm
 39 • Admission: Adults £4.00, Children/Senior Citizens £3.00, Early Bird £7
 • Buy, sell and swap trains, model cars, buses and trucks, soldiers and more! • Free parking, working exhibitions and cafe facilities

GATESHEAD SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
GATESHEAD STADIUM
 Nelson Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE10 0EN - 10.30am-3pm
 39 • Admission: Adults £4.00, Children/Senior Citizens £3.00, Early Bird £7
 • Buy, sell and swap trains, model cars, buses and trucks, soldiers and more! • Free parking, working exhibitions and cafe facilities

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- Ashington
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10 JANUARY

- Brentwood
J & J Fairs
01522880383

11 JANUARY

- York
Jim Corr
07504 035955

18 JANUARY

- Bromley
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
07534 939022

- Spalding
J & J Fairs
01522 880383

- Newton Abbot
Ray Heard
01823 480097

25 JANUARY

- Port Sunlight
Jackson & Jackson Events
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- Lincoln
J & J Fairs
01522 880383

31 JANUARY

- Musselburgh
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ABOVE: Just some of the great selection of model railway equipment at the recent Spalding toy fair, including rolling stock and accessories from Hornby, Replica, GMR/Airfix, Mainline, Lima, Bachmann and many more.

5 FEBRUARY

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8 FEBRUARY

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14 FEBRUARY

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15 FEBRUARY

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15 FEBRUARY

- Rayleigh
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AUCTIONS

3-14 JANUARY

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7 JANUARY

- Bourne
Golding, Young & Mawer
01778 422686

14 JANUARY

- Leeds
Oberon Auctions
0113 5133355

15 JANUARY

- Sheffield
Sheffield Auction Gallery
0114 2816161

21 JANUARY

- Warwick
Warwick & Warwick
01926 499031
- Washington
Tooveys
01903 891955

1 FEBRUARY

- Kenardington
C & T Auctions
01233 510050

13 FEBRUARY

- Canterbury
Canterbury Auction Galleries
01227 763337

14 FEBRUARY

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31 JANUARY

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14 FEBRUARY

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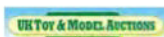
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